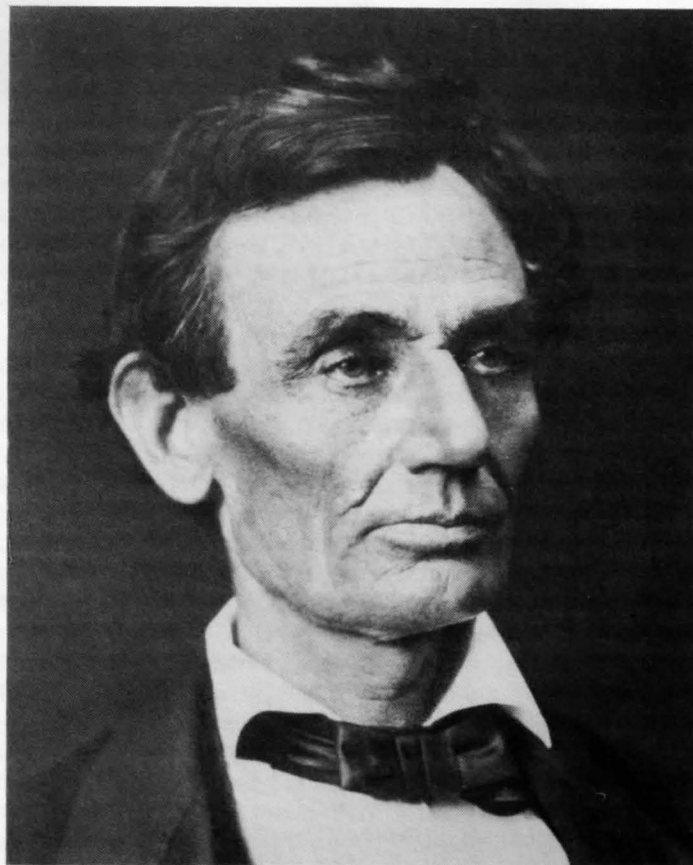


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

FAMILY HISTORIAN



Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)

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

Letter from the Editor

It has been an exciting year for our family—Melissa Rathbun-Nealy captured by the Iraqis, William Rathburn named police chief of Dallas, discovery of an antique Rathbun clock selling for \$22,000, and plans well under way for our National Reunion in July!

Our membership has crept back up to 548, thanks to a good return from our mailing to those who missed the renewal deadline. We are still short of the record 567 we reached in 1990, but we are in good shape, and with a little luck may yet reach that 600 figure by the end of the year.

The deadline to sign up for the reunion was April 15, but there is still time, if you hurry! This will be the first reunion held during the summer, and it was planned in July specifically for the benefit of teachers and parents who cannot get away after school starts. If you have young children, plan to bring them with you. It will be both fun and educational.

The nation's economic depression is being felt in the Washington area as well as in other parts of the country. Our printing company went out of business after printing our January issue, due to financial problems. Several of our sharp-eyed members noticed that the January issue was printed on a different color paper. Our printer had run out of our usual stock, and couldn't afford to buy more. So we had to go with the only color he had in stock.

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

(703) 278-8512

Frank H. Rathbun
Editor & Publisher

ISSN 0737-7711

We have found a new printing firm, Franklin X-Press of Fairfax, Virginia, which will be doing our Historians beginning with this issue.

Some time ago, as a "spare-time" project, I began researching for a possible book on the history of Block Island and a genealogical dictionary of its early families, including, of course, the Rathbuns. It turned out to be a bigger task than I had anticipated, and I already have a file 20 inches thick!

But it is both interesting and challenging, and hopefully in a few years I will be able to put the information in printable form. In the meantime, if you run across any information on early Block Island or its inhabitants (prior to 1900), I would appreciate a copy.

I want to express my thanks, as always, to the members who keep newspaper clippings and other items coming my way. Nearly 40 members from all over the world (including South Africa and Sweden), sent me clippings about Melissa Rathbun-Nealy. Several sent clippings about the appointment of William Rathburn as police chief in Dallas. Robert Rathbone sent me an advertisement from Florida which led to our story on Valentine W. Rathbun's 200-year-old clock. My thanks to you all.

Hazel and I are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Springfield reunion. If you still aren't sure, let me urge you to join us there. I will guarantee you a wonderful time.

(Just as we go to press, I had a call from Melissa Rathbun's father, Leo, too late, however, to confirm details in our story. He is interested in joining our association and may attend our reunion in Springfield.)

Frank

Reunion Plans to Center on Lincoln Ties

Plans have been completed for our Fifth Annual Reunion to be held July 21-25 at Springfield, Ill. Registration checks are still coming in as this edition of our Historian goes to press in early April.

The deadline to sign up was set at April 15, but there is still time to register—if you hurry! Registration forms were included with the last Historian.

We will be sending all registrants a detailed schedule of events by mid-June. At Springfield, all those attending will receive a package of materials, which will include a list of all pre-registered attendees (with their ancestry, so you can figure out relationships), and other information.

The presence of Abraham Lincoln will hover over the reunion, which is dedicated to our family's many connections with that great American president. (See story beginning on page 20.)

We will be visiting Lincoln's home and tomb in Springfield, and the restored village of New Salem, where he lived as a young man. We will see a remarkable outdoor stage production based on Lincoln's life, and we will sail an old-fashioned steamboat down the Sangamon River, where Lincoln had his first job as a raftsmen.

We will have an impressive Lincoln impersonator on one evening, and a dramatic reading of Mary Todd Lincoln's letters on another.

Our traditional display of family heirlooms will be another reunion highlight. Bring along your treasured items to share with your cousins. Past exhibits have included such items as bibles, pictures, letters, samplers, jewelry, war papers and medals and old clothing—anything with a family connection, the older the better!

We are hoping to make this our best reunion ever. Plan to be there, and bring the kids, or grandchildren. It will be both fun and educational, and you will meet a lot of grand people.

Rathbun Girl Makes News As Iraqi Prisoner of Gulf War

The name Rathbun has appeared in the national press more times in the past few months than at any time in American history. The subject was Melissa Rathbun-Nealy, an Army truck driver who was wounded in action and captured by the Iraqis during the Persian Gulf War, and became the first American servicewoman to become an enemy prisoner of war in nearly half a century. Melissa has since been released and is back home in America. Here is her story:

Melissa Rathbun was born March 9, 1970, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the only child of Joan and Leo⁹ Rathbun (Hugh⁸ Mattison⁷ Lewis⁶ Amos⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). Both Leo and Joan were teachers in the Grand Rapids School System, and raised Melissa in an area described as a "tough, mostly black neighborhood."

The Rathbuns were dedicated civil rights liberals, and reportedly moved to the mixed-race area so that Melissa would learn to understand and respect people of different races and cultures. Friends described her as "absolutely color-blind" as to race. When she was 18, according to newspaper accounts, she wanted to marry a 19-year-old black schoolmate, but both sets of parents objected because of their ages.

Melissa was graduated in June 1988 from Creston High School, where her father taught English and History. Her mother taught in a different school. Friends and teachers described Melissa in such terms as "tough cookie, a fighter, high-spirited and assertive."

Earlier, in grade school, she was so spunky her teachers affectionately called her "Little Iodine," after a feisty comic-strip character.

At Creston High, she was a popular, outgoing student who earned average grades, sang in the school choir and participated in athletics. In her senior year, she joined the ROTC and became an enthusiastic cadet, comfortable with



Melissa Rathbun-Nealy (left) in her high school graduation picture, and (right) as she looked upon her release in Iraq.

the military discipline and proud of her uniform.

Her parents were not surprised when she decided to join the Army soon after graduation. They were not really happy with her decision, but they supported her once she had made up her mind. About that time, Leo and Joan both retired, and moved to the small town of Newago, just north of Grand Rapids.

Melissa ended up at Fort Bliss, Texas, where she took basic training and was assigned as a driver, specialist four, with the 233rd Transportation Company. On her first visit home, after basic training, she boasted to her friends that she had done better at pushups than most of her male companions.

In 1989, she was married to a fellow soldier, Anthony Nealy, but the marriage ended in divorce within a few months. She has since used the name Rathbun-Nealy.

In October 1990, as war clouds gathered in the Middle East, she was shipped with her unit to the Persian

Gulf, and was stationed in Saudi Arabia, one of some 30,000 women among the half million American troops in the area.

When Operation Desert Storm was launched on January 16, 1991, Leo and Joan Rathbun joined millions of other Americans in the fear and worry that face those with loved ones at war.

On Sunday, January 27, their fears were eased considerably when they talked with Melissa by telephone, and found her in good spirits. She was somewhat upset by the way women were treated by Saudi Arabians—"like second-class people."

A few days later came word that a female American soldier was missing in action. The Rathbuns were disturbed at first, then assured themselves that it just couldn't be Melissa. Later in the day, their worst fears were realized. An Army captain knocked at their door and told them that Melissa was indeed the woman missing in action.

(Continued on page 24)

Lincoln Linked to Our Family from Birth Through Death

Our early family members had an amazing series of connections with Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president, beginning with his birth in 1809 and ending with his assassination in 1865. This "Lincoln Connection" will be the theme of our national reunion in July at Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln's long-time home and also his burial place. The following is a synopsis of Lincoln's life, with our various family connections along the way. (For a more detailed account, see our Historians of October 1981 and January 1982.)

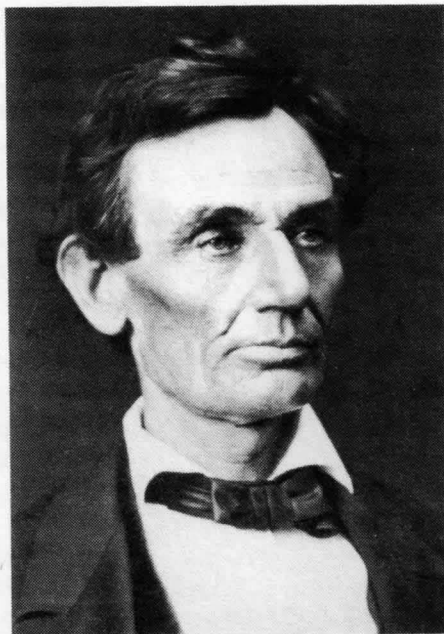
Abraham Lincoln was born Feb. 12, 1809, in a one-room log cabin near Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Kentucky, the son of Thomas and Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln. He was brought into the world by the neighborhood midwife, Mrs. Mary Enlow.

Just 10 years after Lincoln's birth, Mrs. Enlow was married to Thomas Rathbone (1779-1826), son of John⁵ Rathbone (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), and was known as "Grandma Rathbone" for the rest of her long life. She died in 1843, at the age of 77.

In 1816, the Lincolns moved to Indiana, settling on a farm near what is now Gentryville, Spencer County. Among their neighbors were Samuel and Polly Howell, who had also moved from Hardin County, Ky. Their daughter, Eliza Jane Howell, born in 1811, was one of Lincoln's classmates in the one-room schoolhouse which served the area.

The Lincolns and Howells became good friends, and moved together in the late 1820s to farms near Springfield, Illinois. Among their new neighbors there were Edmund⁵ Rathbone (Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), his wife, Deborah, and several children including Gideon, who was the same age as Abraham Lincoln.

Gideon Rathbone fell in love with Eliza Jane Howell, and married her in 1829. Abraham Lincoln quite probably was among the wedding guests.



*Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)*

The Lincolns moved in 1830 to Macon County, Ill., and a year later Abraham, aged 21, decided to leave home and strike out on his own. He headed for Springfield, on foot, and passed through his old neighborhood and the home of Gideon and Eliza Jane Rathbone.

Gideon years later recalled seeing Lincoln at that time.

"It was a very muddy season, and he passed my home with his shoes in one hand and a bundle tied in a handkerchief in the other. Mrs. Rathbone recognized him, and as he stopped overnight with her father who lived nearby, we went over and spent the evening with them," Gideon wrote in the old Rathbone Family Historian of the 1890s.

"He (Lincoln) told us he had just struck out into the world for himself and wanted work."

Mr. Howell suggested that Lincoln call on Denton Offut, a merchant in Springfield, who was looking for "a stout man." Lincoln, at six feet four inches, thought he could fill the bill. He



*Gideon Rathbone
(1809-1892)*

went to see Offut the next day, and was hired on the spot, loading and then poling a flatboat on the Sangamon River, carrying Offut's merchandise. (We will have a steamboat ride on the Sangamon River during our reunion.)

Lincoln worked for Offut several years in various capacities. At one point, he helped take a flatboat down the Mississippi to New Orleans, loaded with corn, salt pork and live pigs. It was there that Lincoln had his first look at the evils of slavery, when he saw a young black girl being examined by potential buyers at a slave auction.

His companions later recalled that Lincoln vowed at that time to fight for an end to slavery if he ever had the chance.

In 1831, Offut put Lincoln in charge of one of his stores, at the little village of New Salem, Ill. Lincoln remained there for six years, became a surveyor, studied law, served as postmaster, and in 1834 was elected to represent New Salem in the Illinois Legislature. (We will visit New Salem during our reunion.)

In 1837, Lincoln moved to Springfield

to open a law office, and there renewed his friendship with the Rathbones and Howells. Gideon Rathbone wrote that he was "well acquainted" with Lincoln during his early years at Springfield, and proudly told his children that he had switched from the Whig Party to the new Republican Party in 1860, so that he could help elect Lincoln as president.

Lincoln was married in 1842 to Mary Todd. He was elected to Congress as a Whig in 1847, served only one term, and returned to his law practice at Springfield. He was already becoming an influential political figure.

The Rathbones left Illinois in 1853, moving to Iowa, and probably never saw Lincoln again. Another family connection soon appeared, however.

Edward⁶ Rathbun (Salah⁵ Simeon⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹) was a well-to-do tea merchant in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he died on May 15, 1854, aged 32. His widow, Hannah (Miner) Rathbun, moved two years later to Springfield, Ill., with her two sons, Edward Rathbun Jr. and James Miner Rathbun. She went to Springfield because of her brother, Rev. Noyes W. Miner, a neighbor and close friend of the Lincolns.

Mrs. Rathbun was soon introduced, either by her brother or the Lincolns, to Dr. John H. Shearer, a widower, who lived directly across the street from the Lincolns. She was married to Dr. Shearer on June 12, 1858. Hannah Rathbun Shearer, then 30, and Mary Todd Lincoln, aged 40, struck up a warm friendship which was to last for 20 years.

The Rathbun boys, Edward (Ed), aged 10, and James (called Miner), aged seven, became close friends and playmates of the Lincolns' two youngest sons—William (Willie), aged eight, and Thomas (Tad), aged six.

In 1859, Dr. Shearer came down with tuberculosis, and decided that he should move back east to live in a higher altitude area. He settled on the mountain town of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, where they moved that year. Hannah and Mary Todd Lincoln maintained their friendship by mail.

On Oct. 20, 1860, while Lincoln was campaigning for president, Mary wrote Hannah: "How I wish I could see you and have some of our long talks together . . . Our boys often wish they could see Ed and Miner (the Rathbun

brothers). I have never ceased to miss you all."

The friendship continued, and when the Shearers had a baby son born in October 1861 they named him William Lincoln Shearer, after the Lincolns' son Willie.

By that time, Lincoln had become president, and in March 1861 the Shearer family had traveled on the Presidential Train with the Lincolns on a trip from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, Pa.

In July 1861, Mrs. Lincoln urged Hannah to bring the two Rathbun boys to Washington to spend "a month or two" at the White House. "If you love me," Mrs. Lincoln wrote, "give me a favorable answer. I have set my heart on having you with me."

The visit apparently took place, for on Oct. 6, Mrs. Lincoln wrote Hannah: "I am pleased to hear that you reached home safely." Edward and James Rathbun were probably the only members of our family who actually lived for a time in the White House.

But tragedy was looming in the lives of both women. Early in 1862, Willie Lincoln fell ill, probably with malaria, and died on Feb. 20 at the age of eleven. Mary Lincoln underwent months of grief and depression, and her correspondence with Hannah Shearer came to a temporary end.

Then, in 1864, Edward Rathbun Jr. died at the age of 14. When Mrs. Lincoln heard of his death, she wrote a touching letter to Hannah:

"Since we were so heavily visited by affliction almost three years since, the loss of our darling, idolized Willie . . . I have shrunk from all communication. Now, in this, the hour of your deep grief, with all my own wounds bleeding afresh, I find myself writing to you to express my deepest sympathy, well knowing how unavailing words are when we are broken hearted . . . Doubtless ere this, our angel boys are reunited in Heaven, for they loved each other so much on earth."

Hannah Shearer died in 1879 at Wellsboro. Mary Todd Lincoln died three years later. Some of her letters to Hannah were published in 1951 in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*.

Lincoln had three more connections, two of them minor, with our family during his presidency. In 1861, he named

William H. Seward as secretary of state, a post he held for nine years. Seward's wife was Harriet Fellows, a granddaughter of William Fellows and Susannah⁵ Rathbun (Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska in 1867, an action so unpopular at the time it was called "Seward's Folly. (Our thanks for this Seward connection to Eleanor Eckert).

On Nov. 19, 1863, when Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address, one of the newspapermen seated near him on the speaker's platform was George A. Benedict (1812-1876), editor of the *Cleveland Daily Herald*, whose wife was Sarah Frances⁶ Rathbone (Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

Our family's final Lincoln connection came on April 14, 1865, when the president was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

Lincoln and his wife were accompanied to the theater on that tragic evening by Major Henry Reed⁷ Rathbone (Jared⁶ Samuel⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹) and Rathbone's fiancée and step-sister, Clara Harris.

Clara's father (Rathbone's stepfather) was Senator Ira Harris of New York, one of Lincoln's most loyal supporters in Congress.

Major Rathbone had served as an infantry captain during the early years of the Civil War, and had won a battlefield promotion to major. In 1864, he was assigned to the provost-marshal's office in Washington, where he and Clara were frequent guests at the White House.

At Ford's Theater, about an hour into the play, "Our American Cousin," Booth made his way to the rear of the presidential box, slipped inside unseen by anyone, and bolted the door. From a distance of only a few feet, he fired his derringer into the back of Lincoln's head.

Major Rathbone immediately leaped to his feet and ran toward Booth, who slashed at him with a large hunting knife. Rathbone parried the blow with his left arm, and suffered a long, deep gash which began spurting blood.

Booth, said Rathbun in later testimony, "sprang toward the front of the

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Old Rathbun-Owned Clock Goes on Sale for \$22,000

Probably the most valuable Rathbun antique in the United States—a tall-case (grandfather) clock made in the 1790s—was sold at auction on January 29 for over \$10,000 and has now been renovated and is for sale for \$22,000.

The clock was purchased some time prior to 1800 by Rev. Valentine W. Rathbun (1761-1813), a son of Rev. John⁴ Rathbun (Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

Existence of the clock was unknown to your editor until last December, when our member Robert Rathbone of New Hampshire, wintering in Florida, sent me a newspaper advertisement by Christie's, announcing that the clock would be auctioned on January 29. The sales price was estimated at \$5,000 to \$8,000.

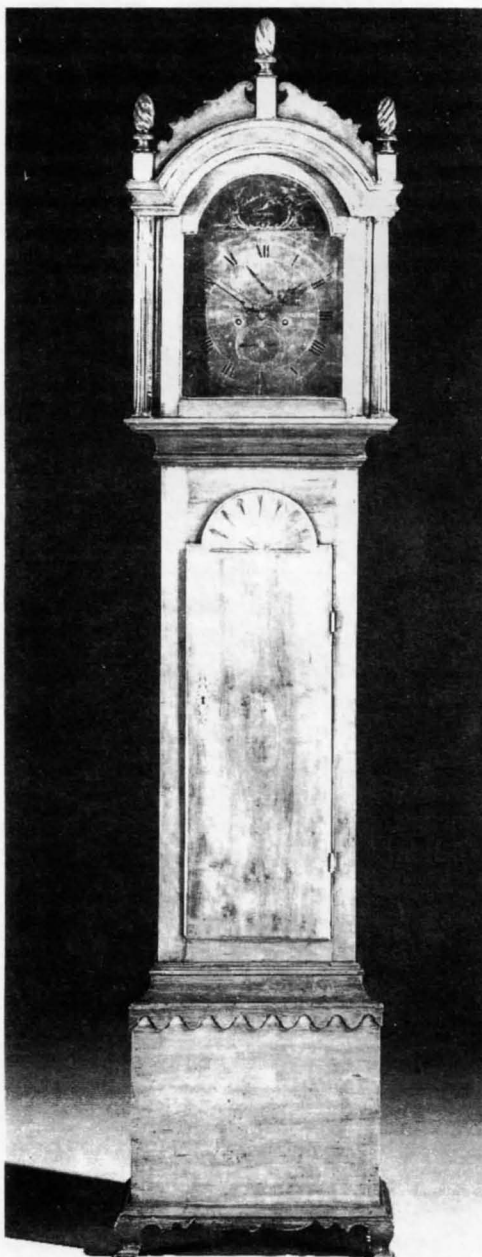
Since that was about \$5,000 to \$8,000 more than I could afford, I quickly lost interest in buying the clock, but I saw a good story for our Historian. I ordered a copy of the auction catalog from Christie's.

Then came a surprise. A few days after the auction, I received a call from the purchaser—Arthur S. Liverant of Nathan Liverant and Son, a prominent antique dealership in Colchester, Conn.

Since the name of the original owner was engraved on the clock—Valentine W. Rathbun, Stonington—Mr. Liverant called several Rathbuns in the Stonington area, hoping to establish the identity of Valentine. One of those he contacted was our member David Rathbun of Stonington, who advised him to call me.

Mr. Liverant was delighted to learn that I could identify Valentine W. Rathbun, and asked me to compile a brief biography for him. He also informed me that he had paid \$9,900 for the clock (plus Christie's commission which pushed the price well over \$10,000), and confided that he had been prepared to bid even higher!

The clock was made by the firm of T. and A. Naffels, who were clockmakers



Valentine W. Rathbun's 200-year-old clock, valued at \$22,000.

in the Guernsey Islands, off England, in the 1790s and early 1800s.

It stands just over 88 inches high, in a Chippendale carved cherrywood case. The brass dial, behind a columned, glass-pane door, is inscribed

with the makers' names. On the brass lunette above the dial is engraved, "Valentine W. Rathbun, Stonington."

Valentine was born at Stonington Point, where his father had organized the town's first Baptist Church in 1775. The father apparently adopted the Rathbone spelling late in life, but Valentine stuck with Rathbun. The family's home is still standing in Stonington Point.

Rev. John Rathbun moved about 1779 to Ashford, Conn., where he organized that city's first Baptist Church. Valentine, then a teen-ager, became active in the church and decided to follow his father into the ministry.

In 1782, at the age of 21, Valentine returned to Stonington, and began preaching there in 1783. In May 1785, he was ordained as minister of the Stonington church which his father had founded 10 years earlier.

Valentine remained with the church for the next 13 years, and it must have been during this time that he purchased the clock. Possibly it had been ordered for him in England by his older brother, John, who was a merchant in Stonington for many years, and in 1791 moved his operations to New York City.

Valentine became a prominent religious leader in the Stonington area, serving at times as clerk of the Stonington Area Baptist Association. He was married on May 6, 1790, to Hepsibah Carpenter, and it was possibly about that time that he bought the clock.

In 1798, Valentine was invited to take charge of the Baptist Church in Bellingham, Mass., and he moved there that year with his wife and two young children. It was a short assignment. Two years later, he moved to Bridgewater, Mass., to become pastor of that city's Baptist Church.

Valentine remained at Bridgewater for 12 years, adding two more children to his family. In 1805, he and another minister were commissioned by the

Baptist Missionary Society to make a three-week trip to Ontario, Canada.

In May 1812, he received an offer from his old congregation in Bellingham to return there. He accepted the offer, but it was to last only one year. In May 1813, according to Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy, "he met with an accident which after a few days' suffering ended his earthly career." He died on May 12, the day before his 52nd birthday.

His final words, according to Cooley (probably reported by one of his children), were: "I die in the full belief of the gospel I have attempted to preach. I only regret that I have not done it more faithfully. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly."

Valentine's widow, Hepsibah, lived another 46 years. She died Oct. 2, 1859, at Willington, Conn., at the age of 86.

The grandfather clock undoubtedly accompanied Valentine in his various moves, and was probably in the living room of his house when he died. Whether Hepsibah kept it for the rest of her long life, we do not know. Nor do we know its whereabouts for the next 130 years, until it turned up at Christie's auction.

The Liverants have repaired the clock's brass workings, refinished the wood casing, and put the clock back in perfect condition. They are offering it for \$22,000. If any of our members are interested, call Arthur Liverant at 203/537-2409, or write to him at P.O. Box 103, (168 South Main Street), Colchester, Conn. 06415.

Our member Gail Snider composed a little Valentine's Day poetry when she learned, after joining our Association, that she was descended from Valentine W. Rathbun (1724-1814):

"There once was a Rathbun named Valentine.

Who lived long ago in another time.

After much seeking, genealogically speaking,

I found this Valentine heart to be mine."

Gail is the granddaughter of Harry⁹ Rathbun (Hiram⁸ Lorenzo⁷ Hiram⁶ Saxton⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

William Rathburn New Police Chief of Dallas

William Rathburn, a former member of our Association, has been appointed police chief of Dallas, Texas. Rathburn was formerly deputy chief with the Los Angeles police department, where he had served for 27 years.

Rathburn, 51, is a descendant of John Rathbone, an early settler of Virginia and later North Carolina, whose ancestry we have not been able to determine. Captain Rathburn's ancestry back to John begins with his father, William⁵ Rathburn (Zebedee⁴ Jesse³ Christopher² and John¹, the unplaced ancestor.

Rathburn was born in Swainsboro, Georgia, where he lived for about 10 years. His parents were separated when he was a small boy, and he knew very little about his origins. We were able to tell him his ancestry back to John when he joined the Association in 1986.

He joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1963, and moved steadily up the promotion ladder. He became a captain in 1976, and commander in 1979, and deputy chief in 1986.

In 1985, he was named "Police Officer of the Year" by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The award was in recognition of Rathburn's work in organizing security for the 1984 Olympic Games.

Rathburn was chosen for the task in 1979, and spent a full five years planning for the Olympics. A vast and complicated security network was organized in anticipation of possible terrorist attacks.

Rathburn's men were spread out over 150 miles of Southern California, at 22 different Olympic sites for the full 16 days of the games. At stake were the lives and safety of 5.8 million spectators and nearly 12,000 athletes, coaches and trainers from 140 countries.

His work was called "the accomplishment of the century in law enforcement" by Los Angeles Chief Daryl F. Gates.

When he was named deputy chief in 1986, Rathburn was assigned to the



Chief William Rathburn

city's two toughest districts, where murders were recorded at the rate of one a day. He launched a widespread crackdown, arresting 235 suspects in one night to curtail the city's marauding gangs. Mobile booking trailers were set up throughout the city to handle the work.

Rathburn was selected as the new Dallas chief to replace former Chief Mack Fines, who was fired after being indicted for perjury.

Jan Hart, Dallas city manager who hired Rathburn, said she was particularly impressed with his accomplishment in reducing gang-related homicides in Los Angeles.

Rathburn said he looked forward to the challenge in Dallas. "There's a lot to do here," he commented. "Helping to build a better relationship with the community will be one of the major challenges. And I am not willing to accept the high violent crime rate Dallas now has."

He has been given a five-to-seven year commitment to the chief's job, at a salary of \$95,000 annually. Rathburn took over the 2,700-man Dallas force on March 4. He and his wife, Jane, have three children.

(Continued from page 19)

Leo Rathbun was devastated, and could barely speak for the next few days. His wife, described as a "Rock of Gibraltar," tried to reassure him and kept an outward show of calm. One of their first callers was their parish priest, who spent nearly an hour with them. Leo was once a brother in a Catholic religious order, and Joan is a former nun.

The privacy they had once enjoyed in their secluded home came quickly to an end. There were hundreds of telephone calls, from the press, from old friends and neighbors and many from complete strangers—well wishers and curiosity seekers. They had a private unlisted telephone installed, and put a recording on their regular phone, asking callers to pray for Melissa and call the Pentagon for information.

A continual stream of visitors prompted friends and neighbors, aided by sheriff's deputies, to screen off the Rathbun house from unwanted guests.

Then came days of anxious waiting and praying, as more details emerged from the Gulf. First, the Rathbuns learned that Melissa's truck had been found, abandoned, on a desert highway near the Kuwait border. There was no sign of Melissa or her companion in the truck, and there was no sign of a fight.

The Army reported that Melissa's vehicle and another had strayed into enemy territory, and come under fire. One of the trucks managed to escape, but Melissa's became stuck in the sand. By the time a rescue team reached the area, she and her truckmate were gone.

Good news came a few days later, with a report that the Iraqis were holding a female soldier as prisoner, followed shortly by confirmation that it was Melissa.

On Friday, February 22, the Rathbuns received a Valentine card from Melissa, postmarked on January 31, the day of her capture. Addressed to "Mom and Dad Rathbun," it simply said, "Happy Valentine's Day. All my love. Melissa."

The card prompted Leo to write a personal appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. He sent it in care of Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations.

"President Hussein," he wrote,

"Melissa is my only child. I beg of you please to have your government give my Melissa a message that her family loves her and is praying for her and that we have received mail from all over the world from people who are offering support and prayer."

As the Gulf War came to an end, the Rathbuns waited eagerly for news of their daughter. It came on March 5, when Melissa and nine other American prisoners were released in Baghdad to the International Red Cross. They were taken first to Jordan, then to Bahrain. That night, she called her parents, and the Rathbuns learned for the first time that Melissa had been hit in the arm with a bullet and shrapnel at the time of her capture, but the wounds were not serious.

She told her parents that the Iraqis had treated her reasonably well during her 33-day captivity, and that she had been given "excellent care" for her wounds. She described her Iraqi guards as "absolutely beautiful people," and said her most frightening times were during allied air raids.

One of the first to greet Melissa after her release was General Norman Schwarzkopf. She extended her hand to him, but he declared, "Oh no, that's not good enough. I want a big hug."

On March 9, she celebrated her 21st birthday, and on March 10 she left Bahrain for a 16-hour flight to Andrews Air Force Base near Washington. She and other former prisoners were greeted by Defense Secretary Richard Cheney and General Colin Powell, chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Leo and Joan Rathbun were also there to greet their daughter.

Melissa was then sent to Walter Reed Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland, where quarters were provided for her parents so they could be near her while she underwent physical tests and military debriefing. On March 13, in a ceremony at the hospital, she was presented with three medals—the Purple Heart, Prisoner of War Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. She will later be given the just-authorized Southwest Asia Service Medal for participation in Operation Desert Storm.

After the ceremony, Melissa was discharged from the hospital and left with her parents for a well-deserved furlough.

In talks with reporters, Melissa gave a few more details of her capture and her experiences as a prisoner.

At the time they were captured, she said, her companion, Specialist David Lockett, was seriously wounded in the chest, and the Iraqis apparently intended to leave him in the desert to die. Melissa clung to the door handle of her truck and screamed at the soldiers that they must also take Lockett with them. The Iraqis finally agreed, and took them both to Basra, where he was hospitalized, and Melissa was put on a truck and taken to Baghdad.

She was confined in a small room, and told how soldiers at first clustered around the door to watch her, even when she washed and dressed. Then an officer appeared, ordered the soldiers away, and took personal charge of Melissa.

Her living conditions improved then. "He really cared for me," she said, and even asked her if she would marry him if he came to America after the war.

"I told him that in the United States, things were different, and that I couldn't just marry anybody I hardly knew. I could tell by the look in his eyes he was disappointed, but he continued to ask me to marry him almost every time he saw me. He finally said he would come to America anyway and find a woman just like me."

At one point, she said, the officer told her she was "a hero as brave as Stallone, and as beautiful as Brooke Shields."

Newspapers and magazines have published conflicting stories of Melissa's future plans. Two black soldiers, each claiming to be her fiancé, have surfaced.

Army Specialist/Four Michael Coleman, 31, reportedly accompanied Melissa's parents to the medal presentation, and said he planned to marry Melissa in August. Coleman, 31, a Texan, was stationed with Melissa at Fort Bliss.

However, in Grand Rapids, Barbara Bozman told reporters that Melissa would marry her son, Army Specialist Rodney Bozman, 22, who is still in the Middle East. Rodney was the young man who wanted to marry Melissa when she was 18, and they both enlisted in the Army about the same time and both went to Fort Bliss.

"She just married that other boy to make Rodney jealous and to get back at her parents for forbidding her to marry Rodney," Mrs. Bozman declared. "They will be married after Rodney returns from the Gulf." The wedding rings have already been bought, she said.

Just as we went to press, there was a newspaper report that Melissa had married Coleman on March 28 in Texas.

(This story of Melissa has been compiled by your editor from the dozens of clippings sent in by Association members, and from recent magazine articles. We have tried without success to contact the Rathbuns to confirm the information.)

Lincoln

(Continued from page 21)

box. I rushed after him, but only succeeded in catching his clothes as he leaped over the railing."

By interfering with Booth's leap, Rathbone had thrown the assassin off balance, so that he broke one of his ankles as he hit the stage floor.

Rathbone shouted out, "Stop that man!," then turned to the president, who had slumped into a coma. The major then unbolted the door with some difficulty due to his wounded arm, and permitted an Army surgeon to enter, forbidding anyone else to enter the box. He tried to accompany the president as he was carried across the street to a boarding house, but collapsed from loss of blood and was taken home. Lincoln died several hours later.

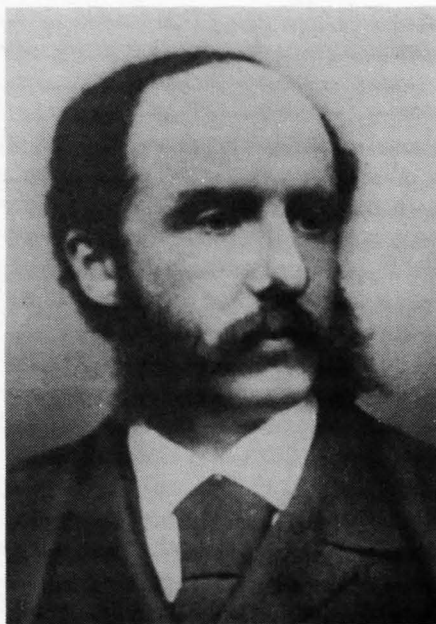
Booth, who had fled on a waiting horse, was trapped a few days later in a Virginia barn, which soldiers set on fire and then shot him to death as he emerged. (Another connection: Booth's brother, Edwin, is the great-great-grandfather of Lois (White) Rathbun, wife of Herbert Warren Rathbun III, son of Herbert⁹ Rathbun (Herbert⁸ Warren⁷ Calvin⁶ Samuel⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹). Herbert's brother, David, is a member of our Association.

Another family member was unwittingly caught up in the national furor caused by the search for Booth. William Palmer⁷ Rathbone (John⁶ William⁵ Wait⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), of Parkersburg,

West Virginia, was married on April 10, just four days before the assassination, to Emma E. Hopkins.

The newlyweds left the next day for what they expected to be a romantic honeymoon at Niagara Falls. Unfortunately, Rathbone bore a striking resemblance to John Wilkes Booth, whose picture was displayed everywhere on "wanted" posters. He and his bride got as far as Buffalo without trouble, but there he was spotted by an alert policeman who put Rathbone under arrest. It took hours of frantic explanations and telegrams to finally gain his release. It was a honeymoon they never forgot.

Major Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris were married in 1867, but the assassination continued to prey on his mind. He seemed to feel that he should have been able to save the president. He began to suffer severe depression



*Henry Reed Rathbone
(1837-1911)*

and paranoia. He and Clara had three children, and were wealthy. They should have been happy, but his condition continued to worsen.

They traveled to Europe, hoping a change of scenery might help. On Christmas Eve morning, 1883, while they were living in Germany, Rathbone awoke, accused his wife of planning to leave him, then shot and stabbed her to death. He then stabbed himself four times in a suicide attempt. Psychiatrists said he used both a knife and gun in a

mental replay of that night in Ford's Theater, when Lincoln was shot and he himself was stabbed.

Rathbone was declared insane by a German court, and spent the rest of his life in a German mental hospital. Due to his family wealth, he spent the years in relative luxury, living in a private suite with servants, and having a carriage available for rides in the countryside. He died there in 1911 at the age of 74, and was buried beside his wife in the local cemetery. Years later, their remains were dug up and discarded to make room for new graves.

His son, Henry Riggs Rathbone, became an attorney and later a United States Congressman (see our Historian of January 1991).

This, then, is the story of our Lincoln Connection. He was brought into the world by a midwife who later married a Rathbone, and the last man he spoke to before his death was another Rathbone. There were other Rathbone/Rathbun connections along the way, making a unique chapter in our family history.

(Many of our members (including your editor) who are descended from Joshua³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) and his second wife, Mary Wightman, are distant cousins of Abraham Lincoln through the Rev. Obadiah Holmes (1609-1682), who was Mary Wightman's great-grandfather, and also an ancestor of Lincoln's. Our thanks to Charles Boardman for this bit of information.)

Our member Virginia R. Lindley of West Union, Illinois, is a ninth cousin of Lincoln through his mother, Nancy Hanks.

Corrections

The obituary of Lucy Rathbone in our January issue incorrectly listed the name of her brother as Douglas Rathbone. He was originally named Douglas, but changed his name to Wofford Robert when he became an adult. Our thanks to Bettye Rathbone.

In our January issue (obituaries, page 15), we listed the father of Robert David Rathbun as Henry Rathbun. His name actually was Harry Daniel Rathbun. Our thanks to Alice M. Rathbun.

Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

317. JOEL⁶ RATHBUN (Joel⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹), born Jan. 21, 1821, at Camden, N.Y. Moved as a young man to Louisiana, and by 1850 was a prosperous merchant and owned a large estate, Big Mound Plantation, at Dallas in Madison Parish. He was married about 1852 to Frances _____, born in Mississippi about 1833, surname and parentage unknown. During the Civil War, he served in the Texas Cavalry with the Confederate Army. After the war, his property was devastated by the breaking down of levees, and he moved to Poplar Bluff, Arkansas, where he died Jan. 15, 1879. Sarah was living as late as 1870.

See Corrections 11-4 p 61

CHILDREN

?KATHERINE, born about 1853; a K_____ Rathbun, aged 7, was in a private academy at Madison Parish in 1860, probably his daughter.

GEORGE H., born Oct. 1, 1856; married Cora _____.

CORA, born about 1858; married James Moring (spelling uncertain) on Jan. 18, 1880.

CAROLINE, born about 1861; alive in 1870, no other data.

MARY, born about 1863; married (?) William Coats.

CHARLES, born about 1865; alive in 1870, no further data.

318. JOHN A.⁶ RATHBUN (Artemus⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹), born Jan. 6, 1814, at Springfield, N.Y., and married there on Sept. 8, 1835, Marilla A. Griggs, born Dec. 24, 1811, daughter of Ichabod and Lydia (Johnson) Griggs. They lived all their lives in Springfield, where he died June 5, 1882, of chronic diarrhea, and she on June 15, 1895, of apoplexy.

CHILDREN

GEORGE A., born July 19, 1838; married Annie E. Gilchrist.

JENNIE C., born June 28, 1841; married Nathan Lawler.

319. GEORGE WASHINGTON⁶ RATHBUN (George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born March 9, 1807, in Richfield, Otsego County, N.Y. Cooley reported that he left home at the age of 11 and later became a blacksmith. On Sept. 14, 1831, he was married to Catherine Clark Contrician (spelling uncertain), born Oct. 1, 1805, parentage unknown. They lived for many years in Leroy, N.Y., where he continued the blacksmith trade and invented a new type of stove which was reportedly the first designed to burn anthracite coal. In the early 1850s, he moved to Allentown, Pa., where he began manufacturing the stove. About 1856, he sold his stove interests to the firm of Rathbone and Sard in Albany, N.Y. (see our Historian of Oct. 1988), and moved to Elk County, Pa., where he entered the lumber business and began prospecting for oil. He established a settlement on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad which was named in his honor, and is still known as Rathbun. Catherine died there July 10, 1862, and he was married on Jan. 31, 1866, to Rebecca Schwenk, born Dec. 28, 1825, daughter of Martin and Catherine (Rieb) Schwenk. He died at Rathbun on April 25, 1870, and Rebecca died there June 30, 1897.

CHILDREN

By Catherine

SARAH, born about 1832; died in infancy.

GEORGE A., born June 26, 1837; married Caroline E. Lampkins.

ELLEN AUGUSTA, born Dec. 26, 1841; married Alexander McMurchy in June 1871 at Leroy.

By Rebecca

ROBERT SCHWENK, born Sept. 6, 1869; married Lilly L. Biery.

320. CORNELIUS⁶ RATHBUN (George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born April 22, 1811, at Richfield, N.Y. He moved with his parents as a young man to Keokuk, Iowa, and was married there on Oct. 29, 1844, to Delilah Miller (or Meyers?), a widow with a young daughter. She was born about 1815, parentage and name of first husband unknown. They lived briefly in Minnesota in the early 1850s, but about 1858 moved to Texas. Unfortunately, this was just before the outbreak of the Civil War, and feelings were running high. He was known as a northern sympathizer, and was resented by many of his neighbors. Toward the end of the war, probably early in 1865, he and his son, William, were captured by a band of southern sympathizers. The son escaped and later joined the Union Army, but Cornelius was never seen again. His family believed he was shot and killed, possibly while trying to escape. Delilah died about three years later. (There is a tradition in this branch of the family that Cornelius and two brothers, all of them blacksmiths, were business partners but had a disagreement over the spelling of the name, and parted ways. The brothers were probably Edwin and Alvin, who both used the Rathbun spelling. Cornelius adopted the Rathburn version, and his descendants still use that spelling.)

CHILDREN

WILLIAM ALVIN, born Aug. 3, 1845; married Mary Elderding.

SARAH, born about 1849; no further information.

LUCINDA Y., born Dec. 25, 1851; married (1) William Payne on July 4, 1875, and (2) _____ Adams.

AARON THOMAS, born Nov. 21, 1854; married Geneva Melissa Ann Gould.

321. SEBRA⁶ RATHBUN (George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born Sept. 20, 1817, in Richfield, N.Y. He moved to Steuben County, N.Y., as a young man, and was married there about 1836 to Catherine Van Dyke, born April 10, 1815, daughter of _____ and Polly Van Dyke. She died on May 10, 1837, and he was married on March 27, 1838, to Mary Ann (Proper?), born August 18, 1813, parentage unknown. They moved in the 1840s to Ottawa County, Michigan, and later to Grand Rapids, Mich. His father died at his home there in 1864. In the late 1860s he moved to St. Cloud, Minnesota. He was a blacksmith, and a very large man, weighing 268 pounds. In 1890, he was thrown from his buggy and was badly injured. He spent the rest of his life on crutches, and died Feb. 2, 1892, at St. Cloud. Mary Ann died two days later, on Feb. 4.

CHILDREN

All by Mary Ann.

CAROLINE MAY, born Dec. 20, 1838; married _____ Stone.

EDWIN, born April 27, 1843; he enlisted Sept. 11, 1862, in the Union Army for the Civil War and died Dec. 31, 1862, of wounds received at the Battle of Stone River, Tenn.

DEMORNINGTON SEBRA, born June 13, 1847; married (1) Helen Proper; (2) her sister Isabel H. Proper, and (3) Anna K. Johnson.

ADDISON MILTON, born Jan. 17, 1854; married Agnes Elizabeth Nixon.

322 EDWIN⁶ RATHBUN (George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born Oct. (or Nov.) 11, 1819, at Howard, N.Y. He moved with his parents as a young man to Iowa, and was married on August 7, 1842, at Fort Madison, to Laura Hart, born June 8, 1822, daughter of Jacob and Olive Hart. He moved from Iowa to Grant County, Wisconsin, by 1850, and then by 1870 to Dallas County, Missouri. He died March 10, 1894, at Lineville, Mo. Laura died August 27, 1910, at Harvard, Idaho. (See our Historian of April 1983 for their pictures and a story on their lives.)

CHILDREN

JACOB WASHINGTON, born Aug. 29, 1843; married Catherine Kee.

LAURA JANE, born Aug. 7, 1845; married George A. Jones on August 11, 1868.

ALMIRA, born Feb. 3, 1848; married Lorenzo Dow Dukes on June 2, 1866.

ARABEL HENRIETTA, born April 4, 1850; married Jonathan Milligan on Oct. 24, 1872.

VENADA MARIA, born Dec. 17, 1852; died April 8, 1861.

EDWIN BENJAMIN, born July 3, 1855; married Martha Roberts.

ALVIN HART, born Feb. 23, 1858; married Sarah Jane McDonald.

ERASTUS ARTEMUS, born Aug. 24, 1861; married Julia Larrabee.

323. ALVIN E.⁶ RATHBUN (George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born about 1821 at Howard, N.Y. He moved with his parents as a boy to Iowa, and was married there, in Marion County about 1844, to Catherine Wingert, born about 1820, daughter of Joseph and _____ Wingert. She was "Pennsylvania Dutch" and spoke little English according to descendants. They moved about 1853 to Putnam County, Missouri, where he died in 1858. Catherine died some time after 1880.

CHILDREN

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, born Dec. 25, 1847; married Clarissa Ann Morgan.

GEORGE ALVIN, born Sept. 6, 1849; married Catherine Chandler.

AMANDA LUCINDA, (reportedly a twin), born (?) Sept. 6, 1849; died Oct. 18, 1850.

WILLIAM H., born about 1855; married Nancy Jane Morgan.

MARY ELIZABETH, born Oct. 7 (or July 25), 1856; died March 1, 1857.

324. ORRIN⁶ RATHBUN (Russell⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born April 10, 1811, in Port Ontario, N.Y. He was married Dec. 20, 1829, to Philinda Marsden, born July 21, 1808, parentage unknown. They moved by 1840 to Richland, Oswego County, N.Y., and about 1849 to Michigan, where he settled on Ruby's Island in Lake St. Clair and later moved to Algonac. He died at Algonac on Jan. 27, 1881, and Philinda died there Oct. 28, 1891. It is possible

that he was a sailor on the Great Lakes, as were all his sons and many of his descendants.

CHILDREN

DORLISKA, born Jan. 1, 1831; married (1) Azel Walworth, and (2) Hiram Fuller.

ANDREW JACKSON, born Feb. 11, 1833; married Mary G. Smith.

MARY JANE, born Nov. 5, 1834; married Cheney Clark on Jan. 13, 1852.

KEZIAH, born Nov. 5, 1836; possibly died young.

EGBERT MARTIN VAN BUREN, born March 4, 1839; married possibly (1) Mary Jane Willoughby, and (2) Lucretia Orange

325. HUBBARD SAXTON⁶ RATHBUN (Hubbard⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born May 11, 1811, in Goshen, Connecticut, and moved with his parents as a boy to Howard, N.Y. He was married on Feb. 24, 1836, to Lucretia Ann Calkins, born about 1816, parentage unknown. They moved to Cohocton, N.Y., where she died in 1856, and he was married again on Sept. 15, 1858, to Julia A. Barton, born Jan. 9, 1823, daughter of Elijah and Mary Barton. Hubbard lived only three years after the marriage, and died Oct. 20, 1861. Julia lived another 40 years, and died Dec. 21, 1901.

CHILDREN

By Lucretia

HELEN M., born July 5, 1840; married Romeyne Otis Higgins on March 10, 1864.

MAREGLIA, born July 28, 1844; married James Hewitt on May 1, 1866, in LaGrange, Ind.

CHARLES H., born Sept. 25, 1846; married (1) Mary Dawson, and (2) Sarah

LUCRETIA ANNE, born in 1855; married W.R. Lewis on June 4, 1879.

By Julia

MARY JANE, born in 1859; died about 1863-4.

(Continued on page 28)

(Continued from 27)

326. MASON BROWN⁶ RATHBUN (Hubbard⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born August 27, 1814, in Goshen, Conn., and moved as a boy with his parents to Howard, N.Y. He was married there on Jan. 31, 1833, to Sarah Almira Page, born Sept. 3, 1815, parentage unknown. They lived in the Howard area all their lives, and he died there on May 21, 1869. Almira died in 1912.

CHILDREN

NANCY A., born in 1834; married _____ Earle.

DANIEL P., born Oct. 3, 1837; married (1) Phoebe Earle, and (2) Annie Shattuck.

ROBY, born about 1840; married _____ Jones.

SARAH ADELAIDE, born about 1844; married _____ Welch.

LYDIA ALZINA, born about 1850; married Henry C. Conrad.

EMMA JEAN, born about 1854; probably died as a girl.

327. ARTEMUS MARTIN⁶ RATHBUN (Hubbard⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born about 1820 in Howard, N.Y., and married probably in the early 1840s Mary Rumsey (according to Cooley; we have found no record of the marriage.) He was married on Feb. 28, 1850, at Mt. Morris, N.Y., to Caroline M. Dunn, born Dec. 2, 1822, parentage unknown. He served in the Army during the Civil War, described as five feet, five and a half inches tall, with grey eyes and brown hair. Family tradition relates that when he returned home, his wife told him: "I was hoping you wouldn't come back." He reportedly turned around and left without a word, and she never saw him again. When his father died in 1866, the probate papers say only of Artemus: "place of residence unknown and cannot be determined." Caroline apparently heard of his death, however, for when she applied for a Civil War pension in 1870, she reported that he had died near Pontiac, Michigan. She died April 27, 1892.

CHILDREN

All by Caroline

CHESTER, born Dec. 6, 1850; married May Baker.

FRANKLIN, born June 10, 1852; died Oct. 19, 1853.

EMILY, born April 11, 1854; married Eugene Hall.

MASON MARTIN, born March 18, 1856; died Oct. 14, 1873, from injuries suffered in a fall from a pile driver.

MARIA, born March 10, 1858; married Henry Bailey.

GEORGE AMES, born Nov. 25, 1859; married (1) Ida Cassidy, and (2) Susan Thatcher.

SYLVESTER LUDAVICO, born August 8, 1861; married Ella Klute.

328. DR. ISAAC⁶ RATHBUN (Dyer⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born Sept. 18, 1810, in Smithfield, Madison County, N.Y. He moved to Howard, N.Y., as a young man, and was married there on May 21, 1848, to Roxa Theresa Madole (or Maydole), born April 19, 1820, daughter of John and Sylvia (Greene) Madole. (Sylvia Greene's sister Jemima married Williams⁵ Rathbun (Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). Isaac studied medicine under a local physician, then attended Hobart College's Medical School in Geneva, N.Y. He returned to Howard in 1843 and practiced medicine there the rest of his life. Isaac was a large man, nearly six feet seven inches tall, and weighed 260 pounds. He was noted in the area for his ability as a log splitter. He built three sawmills on his land, and became one of the county's leading lumbermen. He built a large colonial home, with barns and other outhouses, using lumber cut on his property, sawed in his own mills, and dried in his own kilns. The major tragedy of his life came when his oldest daughter, Elsie, came down with polio as a baby. Despite his best efforts as a physician, he could not help her. Her arms and legs were affected, and she never learned to walk. She could only move by crawling. Her mother took her out of bed each morning, bathed her, and put her in a rocking chair for the day. At night, she put her back in bed. She eventually had to use a lifting device for Elsie, for as she grew older, she eventually weighed over 200 pounds.

One of her nephews reported that she had a keen mind and wonderful memory until her death at the age of 42. Dr. Isaac Rathbun died April 14, 1880, and Roxa died Dec 26, 1893, the year after Elsie's death.

CHILDREN

ELSIE DORLISKA, born Sept. 10, 1850; died April 29, 1892.

LAVEGA, born August 18, 1852; married Ada Burnett.

EMMA ROSE MEROE, born March 13, 1855; married Frederick Townroe.

329. DENNISON⁶ RATHBUN (Dyer⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born April 14, 1815, at Smithfield, N.Y. He was married Sept. 29, 1838, to Maria Pawling, born Feb. 12, 1817, parentage unknown. They lived for a time in Hornellsville, N.Y., but by 1855 were at Howard, where Maria died May 16, 1883, and Dennison on Jan. 3, 1896.

CHILDREN

HENDRICK W., born Aug. 4, 1839; married Elizabeth H. Hammond on Feb. 8, 1864. She was born in 1844, parentage unknown. He was a captain in the Union Army and was killed in action Oct. 28, 1864, at Petersburg, Va. She died May 2, 1919. They had no children.

ISAAC R., born March 27, 1842; married Mary A. Whitcomb.

JOHN D., born April 21, 1844; died Sept. 30, 1851.

HARRIET C., born March 4, 1846; married Byron C. Halburt on Aug. 14, 1866.

GEORGE L., born Sept. 25, 1848; died Oct. 28, 1851 (a month after his brother, probably an epidemic).

ELIZABETH ANN, born July 4, 1851; married Rev. Sylvester Bedford on Aug. 27, 1873.

SARAH M., born Oct. 3, 1854; died Oct. 16, 1897, unmarried.

MARY ESTHER, born Sept. 30, 1856; married Lucius Fancher on March 7, 1877.

DELAWAY, born Oct. 29, 1858; married Elizabeth Culver.

330. CHAUNCEY⁶ RATHBUN (Dyer⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born Feb. 3, 1820, probably at Howard, N.Y.

He was married Dec. 11, 1839, to Jane MacNaughton, born about 1815, parentage unknown. She died in 1877, and he was married about 1879 to Fidelia Gleason, born about 1840, parentage unknown. She apparently died and he was married again to Angeline _____, born in January 1839, surname and parentage unknown. He died in 1899 at Howard. Angeline was still living in 1900. He had no known children by any of his wives, but a Charles Rathbun, 14, was living with him and Fidelia in 1880. Charles was probably a stepson but may have taken the Rathbun name. Nothing more is known of him.

331. HIRAM⁶ RATHBUN (Dyer⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born April 22, 1822, at Howard, N.Y., and was married there Oct. 11, 1849, to Louisa Shearer. She was born Feb. 16, 1830, daughter of Robert and _____ Shearer. They moved to Jasper, New York, where she died May 7, 1891, and Hiram on Jan. 18, 1893.

CHILDREN

SUSAN E., born Sept. 4, 1850; died June 7, 1879, unmarried.

DIMICK HUNTER, born Aug. 29, 1852; married Cornelia Elizabeth Drake

ORLANDO SMITH, born June 20, 1854; married Jane _____.

THOMAS ROBERT, born Oct. 10, 1856; alive in 1875, no further information.

MARY FANNIE, born Sept. 15, 1860; alive in 1880, no further information.

LEWELLYN DANIEL, born Sept. 18, 1863; died Nov. 26, 1921, at Canisteo, N.Y. No known marriage.

GUY HENDRICK, born Sept. 11, 1871; married Elizabeth N. Bowles.

ORA LOUISE, born Aug. 29, 1874; died March 5, 1885.

332. WILSON BRAISTED⁶ RATHBUN (Dyer⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), born Dec. 28, 1824, at Howard, N.Y., and married there about 1855 Rhoda Crevlyn, born in June 1837, parentage unknown. They lived at Howard many years, but moved in later years to Hornellsville, where he died in 1899. Rhoda died some time after 1900. There were no known children.

Hollywood Star Glenn Close Has Double Rathbun Ancestry

Your editor has learned that Glenn Close, one of the finest actresses in Hollywood, is a Rathbun descendant!

Glenn is six generations removed from Jonathan Birch Jr., who married Mercy⁴ Rathbun (William³⁻² John¹). Jonathan Birch Sr., born about 1675, was



Actress Glenn Close

married to Mercy³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹). This means that Glenn Close is a descendant of our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun, through two of their sons—John Jr. and William.

Miss Close, who was born in 1947, has been a five-time runner-up for an Oscar award. Her early pictures included *The World According to Garp*, *The Big Chill* and *The Natural*.

Her most famous role, however, came in 1988 when she played Alex Forest, the deadly "other woman" in *Fatal Attraction*. The next year, she starred in *Dangerous Liaisons*. She was nominated for an Oscar for each one of these five films.

Earlier this year, she did an outstanding job in *Sarah, Plain and Simple*, a

made-for-TV movie, which aired in February.

The information on her ancestry came to us through Daniel McGregor, of Roosevelt University in Chicago, who is planning to publish a book on Glenn's ancestry, entitled *Close Ties*. He and Glenn are distant cousins.

Several years ago, McGregor published a genealogical study of Actress Brooke Shields' ancestry, entitled, *Brooke's Book: Ancestry of Brooke Shields*.

It turned out that Brooke Shields and Glenn Close are cousins, having a number of common ancestors, although not through the Rathbun-Birch line.

McGregor told your editor in a letter: "I never had any ambition to become the 'Genealogist to the Stars.'" However, he certainly has taken two big steps in this direction.

Glenn Close is the first prominent Hollywood star to our knowledge who is a Rathbun descendant. The late Basil Rathbone belonged to an English branch of the family (see our *Historian* of January 1984).

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A New Theory for Old Puzzle

In our issue of January 1984, I asked our readers to study the strange story of Joshua Rathbun (1696-1779), son of John² Rathbun, who named a son Joshua in 1736, when he already had a son named Joshua, and then changed the younger boy's name to Job when the boy was only about five years old.

A possible, and plausible, answer has been offered by our member Mary Ellen Claypool, a descendant of Job.

The first son Joshua, according to Cooley, was the son of Joshua Sr. by his first wife, Martha Card. However, the 1730 will of Martha's father, Job Card, seems to indicate that Joshua Jr. was the illegitimate son of Martha's sister, Sarah, presumably by Joshua Sr.

Joshua Sr. married Martha Card in 1721, and then was married again in 1724 to Mary Wightman. We do not know what happened to Martha. She was apparently alive in 1730, according to her father's will. Perhaps there was a divorce, but no record of it has been found. Maybe she left Joshua because he had an affair with her sister.

Joshua Jr. was born in 1724, several months after his father's second marriage. He was apparently raised by his Card grandparents, who were Quakers. Joshua Sr. was a devout Baptist, a founder of the First Baptist Church in Stonington, Conn. His second wife, Mary, was the daughter of Rev. Valentine Wightman, a prominent Baptist minister.

People took their religion very seriously in those days. In Connecticut, where the Rathbuns lived, most Christians were Baptists, Congregationalists or Anglicans, and they disagreed among themselves with vehemence. They agreed on few things, but they were united in their distrust and hatred of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, a small but solidly-knit group whose message of simplicity and pacifism caused a furor which today seems absurd.

Mary Ellen's theory is that Joshua Rathbun Sr. disowned his first son, Joshua, because he had embraced the Quaker faith of his Card grandparents



This charming photograph taken 112 years ago, in 1879, shows (at left) Alphonzo Rathbun, son of George⁷ Rathbun (Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), of East Greenwich, R.I. Alphonzo, born July 8, 1878, died on Dec. 14, 1879, aged 17 months. The picture must have been taken shortly before his death. The other boy is Delbert Vaughan, a cousin on Alphonzo's mother's side. Our thanks to Frank E. Rathbun.

rather than the Baptist faith of the Rathbuns. To show his anger, Joshua Sr. named another son Joshua in 1736 as a way of saying: "My first born son is dead so far as I am concerned." It was customary then, when a child died, for the parents to give the same name to a later child.

Then, about 1741, according to her theory, the first son Joshua, aged 17, left the Quakers to join his father's Baptist Church. The father was delighted, but he now had a problem—two

sons named Joshua. He went before the town council and changed the name of his younger son Joshua, then five, to Job Rathbun, "for good reasons," according to the town records.

If Mary Ellen's theory is correct, the strange story has an ironic ending. Joshua Rathbun Jr. returned to the Quaker faith, possibly in 1742, at age 18, when he married Dorcas Wells. He remained a Quaker until his death in 1801 at the age of 77, and his sons also were active Quakers.

Obituaries

DIED—Dec. 12, 1990, Jack Rathburn, 49, of Gallipolis, Ohio. He was a son of John¹¹ Rathburn (Carl¹⁰ John⁹ Amos⁸ Sereno⁷ Elijah⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹). He is survived by his father; wife, Karen; two sons, Jeffrey and Christopher; a daughter, Kimberly; a sister, Carolyn Dix, and four half-brothers and sisters, Susan, Timothy, John and Michael Rathburn.

See Corrections 11-3 p 45

DIED—Dec. 22, 1990, Emil R. Rathbun, 90, of Colorado Springs, Colo. He was the son of Adolph⁷ Rathbun (Thomas⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹). His wife, Margaret Christian Rathbun died in 1987, and he left no survivors.

DIED—Nov. 12, 1990, Howard Jensen, 69, of St. George, Utah. He was the son of Niels Jensen and Elizabeth Jane⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ Eldridge⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He is survived by three daughters; three grandchildren, three brothers and three sisters.

DIED—Dec. 21, 1990, Jessie Lee Morris, 66, of Fitzgerald, Ga. He was the husband of Sallie (Rathbun) Morris, daughter of John⁸ Rathbun (Hallet⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

DIED—July 27, 1990, Dorothy (Cole) Cooper, 78, of Fresno, Calif. She was the granddaughter of Edward E. Cole and Nancy⁷ Rathbun (Ebenezer⁶⁻⁵ Thomas⁴ Jonathan³ William² John¹). She is survived by her husband, Orvis Cooper; two daughters; six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

DIED—March 27, 1991, Mrs. Fay M. Rathbone of Falls Church, Virginia, widow of DeForest Z. Rathbone (1904-1967). Mr. Rathbone was the son of DeForest Lisle Rathbone (1876-1938) and grandson of Charles Rathbone, born in the 1850s whose ancestry has not been established. Mrs. Rathbone is survived by two sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

DIED—Dec. 11, 1990, Helen (Rathbun) Robinson, 80, of Normal, Illinois, the daughter of Fred⁸ Rathbun (William⁷ John⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). She is survived by her son, Gary; daughter, Cheryl Travis, many nieces and nephews, and a brother, Paul Rathbun, a member of our Association.

DIED—April 9, 1990, Oscar Leroy Rathbun, 88, of Los Angeles, Calif. He was the son of John⁸ Rathbun (William⁷ Gideon⁶ Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He had been married three times, but had no children. Among his nephews and nieces is our member, Janet Ann Hays.

WE THANK the following members who have sent us information, pictures, clippings and other items: Rob Rathbun, Juliette Finch, Jack Rathbun, Phyllis Wingerak, Frances Higgins, Dorothy Hladik, Reba Reeves, Sharon Jahn, Rosma Limbeck, Col. James P. Rathbun, John Bowen, David Rathbun, Evelyn Anderson, Frank R. Wright, Robert C. Rathbone, Lauren Landis, Betty Angelini, Charity Ramoz, Bettye Rathbone, Mr. and Mrs. William Marsh, Ellen G. Brown, Terry Carnahan, Kathy Phillips, Franklin A. Dorman, Jean Halden Walker, Alice M. Rathbun, Mildred Rathburn, Rev. R. Van Rathbun, Col. Robert A. Greene, Edith Leppla, Bill Wright, Horace Still, Margaret Scheide, Roy Rathbun, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Ellen Coates, Jan and Grove Rathbun, Helen M. Rathbun, Marjorie Gibson, Ethel Grady, Ronald Rathburn, Clair Cornell, Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Rathbun, Ronald Rathbun, Darleen Boyle, Larry Rathbun, Don and Opal Rathbun, Joe Wiswall, Mary Eade, Fern T. Kelley, Beatrice Rathburn, Vern Kittleson, Dorothy Danks, Katherine Coner, Keith Rathbone, Charles Beveridge, Diane Feindt, Barbara Petty, Allan Rathbun, Art Hutchinson, Annabelle Reaser, Beverly Gillette, Bud Parfitt, Judd Perry, Bruce Rathbun, Jeanne Chubbuck, Phara Holdredge, Michael Rathburn, Dan Rathbun, Jay Rathbun and Antoinette McCreary.

New Data

In our last issue, we overlooked a few family members who had or are serving in top community positions. Raymond E. Rathbun is serving his second term as mayor of Fremont Michigan, where his wife, Margaret, recently retired after 15 years as city treasurer. Raymond, the father of our member Rev. R. Van Rathbun, is the son of Louie⁹ Rathbun (John⁸ Rowland⁷ Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). Also, we overlooked William Ransom Rathbone (1810-1873), who was the first supervisor of Rathbone Township, Steuben County, N.Y., which was named for his father, General Ransom⁶ Rathbone (Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹).

Sylvia Anna Rathbun, daughter of John Williams⁶ Rathbun (Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), was married on Dec. 26, 1883, in Huron County, Ohio, to Elmer S. Sackett. Our thanks to Lauren Landis.

Jane Rathbun, daughter of Ebenezer⁶ Rathbun (Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), is probably the Jane Rathbun who was married to John Peck on June 10, 1844, in Henry County, Ill. Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy reported, erroneously, that she died in 1844.

Catherine Fisher, wife of Ransom⁶ Rathbone (Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), was born Oct. 22, 1791, in England. Ransom and Catherine both died in Rathboneville, N.Y., and were originally buried there, but their remains were moved in 1870 to Woodlawn Cemetery, in Elmira, N.Y.

The maiden name of Nancy, wife of George⁶ Rathbun (Joseph⁵ George⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹), was Popple. She was probably the daughter of Roswell and Catherine (Record) Popple, and died in the 1918 influenza epidemic. Our thanks to Neil and Janet Rathbun.

Elizabeth Baxter, wife of Jethro⁵ Rathbun/Rathbone (Coggeshall⁴ Abraham³ Samuel² John¹), was the daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Beckmore?) Baxter, according to LDS records.

People

KEITH AND JOYCE Rathbone of Fresno, Calif., were presented with a Citizen Certificate of Commendation by the state's Department of Justice, for their anti-crime work. They formed a Neighborhood Watch Group in 1982, and have been active volunteers for the Fresno Police Department for eight years. Joyce is the editor of "The Crime Crier," which publishes crime statistics, safety tips and other material and is sent to all Neighborhood Watch block captains in the city. Keith was chairman in 1989-1990 of the Northeast Neighborhood Watch Association. He is the son of Robert⁸ Rathbone (Edward⁷ Thomas⁶ Jonathan⁵ Coggeshall⁴ Abraham³ Samuel² John¹).

PAMELA McDUFFIE and Spencer Moorman were married August 11, 1990, at Fitzgerald, Ga. Pamela is the granddaughter of our member Dixie (Rathbun) Fountain, daughter of John⁸ Rathbun (Hallet⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

SCOTT A. RATHBUN of Pawcatuck, R.I., recently achieved the rank of Shodan, first degree Black Belt, in Karate. He has been a student for five years. He is the son of our member David¹¹ Rathbun (Laurence¹⁰ Everett⁹ Jerome⁸ Nathan⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

JERROLD L. RATHBUN II served aboard the USS Coronado, a flagship of the Seventh Fleet, during the Persian Gulf War. He was a gunners' mate. He is the son of our members, Myrna and Jerrold⁹ Rathbun (Fred⁸ Erastus⁷ Edwin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

KEITH RATHBUN HAASL spent his 21st birthday in the Persian Gulf, serving in Operation Desert Storm. He served with the 20th Engineers Battalion, driving supplies to the front. He is the son of Edward Haasl and Lerline Lois¹⁰ Rathbun (George⁹ William⁸ Jonathan⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

Our New Members

Diane Feindt
Dayton, J.J.

Kathleen Kopke
Britton, Mich.

Elizabeth Maxim
Austin, Texas

Grant Misbach
Provo, Utah

George Payne
Linthicum, MD.

Roy Rathbun
N. Augusta, S.C.

Hazel Wood
Hope Valley, R.I.

Frank Rathbun Wright
Winthrop, Maine

CHERYL A. CHAMPLIN and John H. McCulley Jr. were married Sept. 15, 1990, in West Warwick, R.I. Cheryl is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rollo Champlin and granddaughter of Helen M. Rathbun, all members of our Association. Helen is the daughter of Ernest⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), and the widow of Edward Bryon¹⁰ Rathbun (George⁹ Raymond⁸ Amy⁷ Olney⁶ Joshua⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

VINCENT J. RATHBURN and Kimberly A. Touch were married Sept. 1, 1990, in Falls Church, Va. He is the son of Col and Mrs. Vinton L. Rathburn and grandson of Vinton T.¹⁰ Rathburn (Elbert⁹ Charles⁸ James⁷ Amos⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹).

Births

BORN—Jan. 28, 1991, Maggy Jo Allen, daughter of Donald and Monica Allen, and granddaughter of our members, Kenneth and Lois Allen of Bend, Ore. Lois is the granddaughter of Edward⁷ Rathbone (Thomas⁶ Jonathan⁵ Coggeshall⁴ Abraham³ Samuel² John¹).

BORN—Feb. 3, 1991, Michael Robert White, son of Jeffrey and Kathleen (Ledford) White of New Salem, Mass., and grandson of our member Jean Ledford. Mrs. Ledford is the daughter of Bonnie⁹ Rathburn (Henry⁸ Valentine⁷ John⁶ Tibbets⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹).

New Data

Hubbard Welch⁵ Rathbun (Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), was born Jan. 23, 1784, and died in October or November, 1863. The dates given in our Historian of January 1985 (page 14) were wrong, based on an erroneous reading of his tombstone. Our thanks to Louis V. Head, a descendant, who also provided the birth date of Hubbard's daughter, Fannie, on Feb. 6, 1816.

Caroline Rathbun, daughter of Lewis⁵ Rathbun (Amos⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), was born in 1843 and was married on August 22, 1865, in Auglaize County, Ohio, to David Valentine.

Nancy S. Rathbun, daughter of Paris⁶ Rathbun (Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), married Charles Stoddan on Oct. 13, 1850, in Dewitt County, Illinois. She was not the Nancy Rathbun who married Robert M. Hopkins as we had speculated. That Nancy was the daughter of Job Rathbun, son of Paris⁶.

Lucius Rathbun, son of Jonathan⁵ Rathbun (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), married his second wife, Sarah Glick, on Dec. 24, 1842, in Berrien County, Michigan.

David B. Rathbun, son of Ebenezer⁵ Rathbun (Thomas⁴ Jonathan³ William² John¹), married his second wife, Jane Kingsley, on April 16, 1866, in Washtenaw County, Michigan. (This data, and that in the preceding three paragraphs, comes from the Mormon Church Record disks provided by Haybron Adams and printed for us by Art Hutchinson).