

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

# FAMILY HISTORIAN



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

## Letter from the Editor

This Historian will be arriving late, hopefully by the end of August. I delayed the printing so that I could include a report and pictures from our national reunion in Springfield, Ill. Hazel and I are just getting ready to leave as I write this, taking a train to Chicago, and then to Springfield. We plan to spend a little time on the way back with our two daughters in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

A rush of new members has pushed our membership list up to 570—, topping the all-time record of 567 we set last year. It doesn't look as though we will reach that magic 600 figure this year.

I have just learned of a campaign on Block Island to raise enough money to save the old Southeast Lighthouse, which stands atop the island's picturesque Mohegan Bluffs. This is the land originally owned in 1661 by our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret Rathbun.

Unless enough money can be raised to move the lighthouse back from the badly eroding cliffs, the historic old structure, built in 1873, will soon be lost.

Members who attended our 1989 Rhode Island reunion will remember touring the lighthouse on our visit to Block Island. It is a valuable historic landmark, and I would like to see our Association help in the fund-raising effort. Lydia (Rathbun) Littlefield, one of our members, is one of the campaign leaders.

If each member would contribute at least \$10 to this worthy project, we could donate over \$5,000. If you would like to

contribute, please send your check to me, made out to our Association. I will deposit all the checks I receive into our Association account, and then write one check to the Lighthouse Fund, including a generous donation from Association funds.

The Block Islanders have an offer of \$700,000 in state funds if they can raise \$270,000 in matching funds by September 30. If that goal can be reached, work should start next spring on moving the lighthouse back to a safe location.

Let's see if we can't come up with a nice contribution in memory of our Block Island ancestors! A list of all our members who contribute will be sent to Block Island with our check.

Our obituary column is longer than usual this month, and includes a number of our members. We extend our sympathy to their loved ones.

For the benefit of newer members, let me again stress the important role all of you can play in our task of compiling and writing the family history. If you have time, check your local town halls and courthouses for vital statistics on Rathbuns, Rathbones or Rathburns. Check local cemeteries for tombstone inscriptions or burial records. Watch local newspapers for any mention of cousins with our name — obituaries, births, marriages, anniversaries, etc.

Also, be sure you have sent me complete genealogical data on your branch of the family, and remember that I am always looking for pictures of early cousins, those born in the 1700s or early 1800s.

Each month, I publish a "Thank You" list of members who have sent me information, clippings or pictures. Let's see your name there once in a while!

Hazel and I send our very best wishes to you all.

## Rathbun Family Wins \$12 Million in Ohio Lottery

A Rathbun family living near Cleveland, Ohio, won \$12 million dollars in the Ohio State Lottery last April. The money will be split between Roxi Lee Rathbun, her daughter, Leona Long, 25, and her son Brian Rathbun, 23.

Mrs. Rathbun will receive \$184,615 a year for 26 years, and her two children will each receive \$138,461 a year, all before taxes.

The winning numbers chosen by the Rathbuns were 18, 19, 27, 28, 31 and 34.

We do not know the identity of these Rathbuns. Can any of our members help?

In our issues of January, April and July of 1990, we told the story of the West Virginia Rathbones and their role in establishing the American oil industry.

A group of interested citizens in Parkersburg, W. Va., has opened an "Oil and Gas Museum" there, to collect and preserve historical materials of the Rathbones and other pioneers of the oil industry.

David McKain is president of the group, and is actively seeking both historical material and financial aid. Stop by the museum if you are in the Parkersburg area. If interested in more information, or in helping out with a contribution, write to Mr. McKain at Box 868, Parkersburg, W. VA. 26101.

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

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**Frank H. Rathbun**  
Editor & Publisher

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*Frank*

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# Cherished Family Heirlooms Are 'Treasures from the Past'

**M**any members of our Association are the proud owners of heirlooms passed down through many generations of Rathbuns, Rathbones or Rathburns. Some of these "Treasures of the Past" have been displayed at our national reunions, but many are too big or too fragile to carry long distances.

The sampler pictured on the cover of this *Historian* was shown at our 1987 reunion at Rapid City, S.D., by Joy Baker of Missoula, Montana. She is the daughter of Robert<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Clarence<sup>7</sup> Guy<sup>6</sup> Amiziah<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

The sampler was made by Fidelia Ann Rathbun, a daughter of Amiziah<sup>5</sup>, about 1828, when she was nine years old. Fidelia, born about 1819, married Philip Yeple in 1844, but nothing more is known of her. She may have died soon after the marriage, leaving no children, for the sampler was inherited by descendants of her sister, Philena (Rathbun) Simpson (1823-1881).

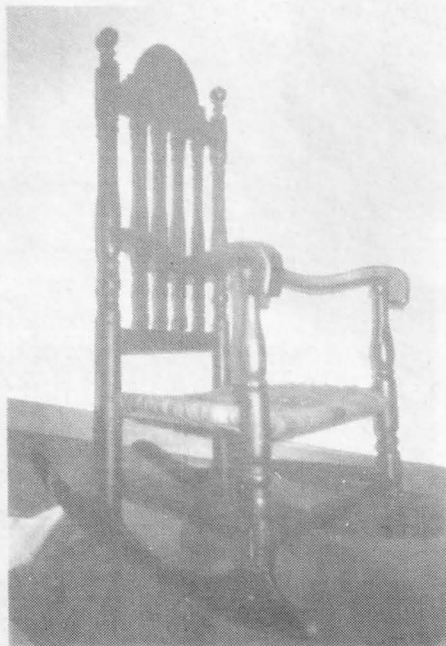
It was given to Joy's grandfather, Clarence Rathbun, as a Christmas present in 1928, by one of those descendants, with a note saying that the sampler was "made at the age of nine on hand-woven linen."

It is a fine example of an art form that was commonly used by young girls in the early 1800s.

A much older heirloom is owned by Margaret (Betty) Angelini, of West Stockbridge, Mass., a descendant of Jesse Stafford and Ruth<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>5</sup> Nathaniel<sup>4,3</sup> John<sup>2,1</sup>).

Betty has a very old rocking chair which furniture experts have dated back to the 1700-1725 period. If so, the chair may have belonged to John Rathbun Jr., son of the immigrant John Rathbun.

Betty's family tradition, passed down for many generations, is that the chair was brought from Rhode Island to Massachusetts by "Grandma Rathbun," which probably refers to Mary, the wife



*Betty Angelini's chair.*

of Nathaniel<sup>4</sup> Rathbun, whose maiden name is unknown.

According to legend, she rode into Stockbridge, sitting on the chair which was carried on the wagon which brought the family from Rhode Island to Massachusetts shortly after the Revolutionary War.

The chair was left to her granddaughter, Ruth Stafford, then to Ruth's granddaughter Julia, who gave it to Betty's aunt Ruth. It sat for many years in her attic, and when she died, it went to Betty's mother, and then to Betty.

The chair was originally an arm chair, and was converted to a rocker probably in the early 1800s. It is a "split bannister" type, with a rush seat.

(Betty's ancestors also passed down the words to an old children's song entitled "Little Dame Crump." It begins as follows:

"Little Dame Crump with her little hair broom

One morning was sweeping her little bedroom  
When casting her little gray eyes to the ground  
In a sly little corner a penny she found."

The song traditionally was sung by Betty's early Rathbun ancestors. Have any of our other members ever heard it?)

Probably the oldest Rathbun antique in existence is the 1725 family bible of Samuel<sup>2</sup> Rathbun, youngest son of our immigrant ancestors John and Margaret Rathbun. The ancient bible is now owned by the Block Island Historical Society. Its yellowed pages record the births, deaths and marriages for several generations of Samuel's descendants.

Mrs. Beverly Gillette of Frankfort, N.Y., has a home filled with Rathbun antiques. She is the Daughter of James<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (James<sup>8</sup> John<sup>7,6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Among her treasures are a desk and a whale oil lamp brought to New York from Rhode Island by her ancestor Thomas<sup>5</sup> Rathbun about 1801.

Your editor also has a number of family heirlooms, including oil paintings of his great-grandfather, Charles Rathbun (1796-1875); Charles' wife, Anna Kniffin Rathbun (1798-1855), and their oldest children, Gouverneur Rathbun (1819-1888) and Sarah Frances (Rathbun) Smith (1822-1897). Charles was a son of Amos<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Amos<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2,1</sup>).

Other items in your editor's collection include Charles and Anna's family bible, printed in 1843, with family records dating back to the middle 1700s; and a handmade silver spoon dated 1786, with the initials CB, owned by Anna Kniffin's mother Charity Brundage.

Members who own early family heirlooms, dating back to the early 1800s or 1700s, are encouraged to send us pictures and information for possible future stories.

# Springfield Reunion Draws 150 Cousins from 30 States

**O**ur fifth national reunion is now history! The four-day program in Springfield, Illinois, drew some 150 cousins from 30 states, who shared a busy and fun-filled agenda.

California had the most attendees, with 20, followed by Illinois with 15, Rhode Island with 12, Michigan and Ohio each with 11, and Wisconsin, 10.

The oldest cousin present was Ethyl Rathbun Grady, 85, of Tucson, Arizona. The oldest man was Manford Rathbun, 84, of Talent, Oregon. The youngest cousin was two-year-old Anna Rathbun, daughter of Gary and Eileen Rathbun of Coon Rapids, Minn., and granddaughter of John and Alberta Rathbun of Walton, N.Y.

The longest-married couple was Roy and Anna May Rathbun of Hemet, California, who have been married 54 years. They were presented with a lovely hand-crocheted doily made by our cousin Edith Mayfield, 84, of East Moline, Ill. Edith had planned to attend, but was hurt in a fall just days before the reunion.

Eight of those present had attended all four previous reunions — President Frank and Hazel Rathbun; Jack Rathbun of Lansing, Mich., and his daughters Caroline Colbry and Jackie Furgala; Elwin and Ellen (Rathbun) Kenyon of Charlestown, R.I., and John Bowen of Silver Spring, Md.

As in past years, we counted the attendees by descent from the five sons of our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret Rathbun of Block Island.

Descendants of the oldest son, John Jr., led the list with 64, followed by Thomas, the second son, with 42; Joseph, the fourth son, with 28; Samuel the youngest, with 10, and William the third son, with five. We also had two more distant cousins—John and Valorie Rathbone of Hamilton, N.Y. John is descended from an 18th Century immigrant, John Rathbone of Liverpool.

Our program officially opened Sunday night, July 21, with registration and a



*President Frank Rathbun and Mary Ellen Claypool relax during a break in the reunion program.*

get-acquainted reception and buffet. Much of the activity from that point centered around our reunion theme — our family's many connections with President Abraham Lincoln.

On Monday, we visited Lincoln's home, law office and final resting place in Springfield. On Monday night, we enjoyed a fascinating solo portrayal of the life and character of Mary Todd Lincoln, the president's wife, by Genny Brown, a professional actress. She based her performance on six letters written by Mrs. Lincoln.

Following her presentation, our member Lauren Landis did a superb reading of a touching letter written by Mrs. Lincoln to Hannah Shearer, a remarried Rathbun widow, who had just lost one of her young Rathbun sons, a former playmate of the Lincoln boys.

On Tuesday, we toured the restored village of New Salem, where Lincoln lived as a young man. Our planned steamboat

ride on the Sangamon River was canceled due to low water, and we instead visited the home of poet Edgar Lee Masters, author of the *Spoon River Anthology*. That night, we watched an impressive outdoor play based on the life of Abraham Lincoln.

On Wednesday morning, we had our traditional memorabilia display, with a wide range of family heirlooms brought from all over the country. Included were antiques, bibles, pictures, letters, quilts and other items.

In the afternoon, some 60 cousins attended a genealogical seminar conducted by President Frank and Professor K. Haybron Adams. Others spent the afternoon shopping, resting or exploring the area.

On Wednesday night, our guest was Harry Hahn, an award-winning Lincoln "Look-Alike" with an uncanny resemblance to President Lincoln. He related the story of "his" (Lincoln's) life up to the



time he left for Ford's Theatre the night of his assassination — accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln, Major Henry R. Rathbone, and the major's fiancée Clara Harris.

The rest of the evening was devoted to group pictures and farewell hugs, kisses and handshakes.

(Editor's Note: My sincere thanks to all those who helped to make the reunion such a success. First, to my wife Hazel, who planned the entire program and made sure everything stayed on schedule, and to all the others who helped in so many ways — John Bowen, Rob and Charlie Rathbun, Lauren Landis, Charity and Dawn Ramoz (my daughter and granddaughter), Janet and Grove Rathbun, K. Haybron Adams, Caroline Colbry, Jackie Furgala, Tami Sawyer, Roy Rathbun, Edith Mayfield, Helen M. Rathbun, Rev. R. Van Rathbun, Bob and Carol Beardsley, and all those cousins who brought items for the family memorabilia display.)

Two members of our Association drove to the reunion following the westward migration route of their ancestors. The two were John Q. and Mary Rathbone, of Manassas, VA. John is the son of Ralph<sup>8</sup> Rathbone (John<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Edmund<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

His ancestor, Edmund<sup>4</sup> Rathbone (1777-1865), moved from New York State about 1800 and settled near what is now Wheeling, West Va. John and Mary picked up his trail there, and followed his route west — to Marietta, Ohio, in 1805; to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, in 1816; to Crawford County, Illinois, in 1817, and in 1827 to a farm near Springfield, site of our reunion.

In 1845, Edmund briefly joined the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons), and was baptized that year by Patriarch Joseph Smith in Nauvoo, Illinois, then the "Capitol" of Mormonism. Edmund later moved to Hardin County, Iowa, where he and his wife, Deborah (Taylor) Rathbone, both died.

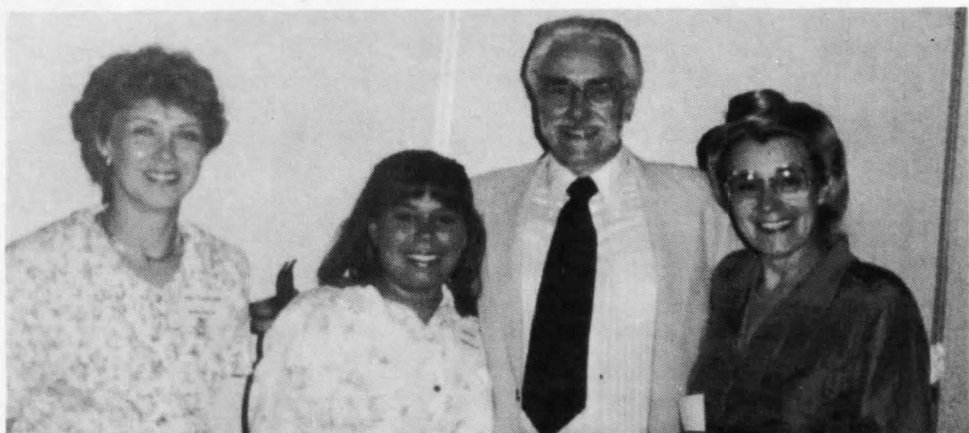
His son, Gideon Rathbone (1808-1882), married Eliza Jane Howell, a schoolmate and friend of Abraham Lincoln.



*Jack Rathbun of Lansing, Michigan, with his daughters Jackie Furgala (left), Caroline Colbry and Tami Sawyer. Jack, Jackie and Caroline have attended all five national reunions.*



*Three cousins met at the reunion for the first time. From left are Mildred B. Rathbun, Barbara Jordan and Rev. R. Van Rathbun, all descended from Joshua<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).*

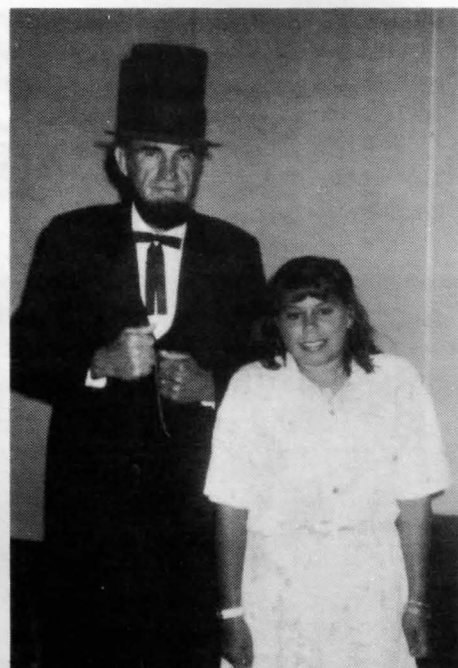


*President Frank with wife Hazel (right), daughter Charity Ramoz (left) and granddaughter Dawn Ramoz.*

# Pictorial Highlights of Family Reunion in Springfield, Illinois



*Hazel Rathbun (Right) presents a hand-crafted doily to Anna May and Roy Rathbun, longest-married couple at the reunion at 54 years.*



*Abraham Lincoln (Harry Hahn) with Dawn Ramoz, aged 15, your editor's granddaughter. Dawn is five feet two inches tall, an inch taller than Lincoln's wife, Mary.*

Group pictures by Robert and Carol Beardsley. Other photos by Rosma Limbeck, Hazel Rathbun and Charity Ramoz.



*Descendants of Thomas and Mary (Dickens) Rathbun.*





*Descendants of William and Samuel Rathbun.*



*Descendants of Joseph and Mary (Mosher) Rathbun.*



*Descendants of John and Ann (Dodge) Rathbun.*

# Henry Barber Rathbun Killed After Feud Lasting 23 Years

**T**he Hatfield-McCoy Feud is the most famous in American history, but one branch of our family was involved in an equally bitter feud which lasted 23 years and ended with one Rathbun shot to death.

The slain cousin was Henry Barber Rathbun, youngest son of Norman<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>5</sup> Roger<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

The feud began in 1868, when Rathbun, then 24, defeated a neighbor, Martin Casey, in a wrestling match. Casey was described as "an ill-tempered Irishman" and heavy drinker, with a reputation for terrorizing the town and committing robbery when drunk.

He was irate at losing the wrestling bout, and swore he would kill Rathbun at his first opportunity. He followed Rathbun on different occasions, waving a revolver and challenging him to fight.

Rathbun, apparently a peaceful man, sought to end the hostility, and assured Casey that he harbored no ill feelings. He did suggest that the two avoid one another. Casey apparently agreed, but Rathbun knew that Casey lost control and became belligerent when he drank.

A short time later, the two met at a neighborhood party, and Casey, after an evening of drinking, drew his pistol and approached Rathbun. Casey's father, also armed, backed his son. Rathbun's older brothers, John, 39, and Orlo, 31, leaped up to aid their brother.

In the resulting melee, and before onlookers could quell the fight, both John and Orlo were shot, neither seriously wounded.

Casey was arrested, charged with assault, and sentenced to prison. His father loudly proclaimed that he would "get even" with the Rathbuns when his son was released from prison.

Casey was freed in the early 1880s, and returned to Stephentown. The Rathbuns prepared for trouble. Fortu-

nately for them, Casey, on a drunken spree, stole a neighbor's horse, and was again arrested and returned to prison. This time he served about eight years.

Early in 1892, again released, he returned to Stephentown, and quickly let it be known he still carried his grudge against the Rathbuns. A showdown seemed inevitable.

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**Everett Rathbun jumped in and knocked the gun to the ground. Martin Casey picked it up, rushed at Henry Rathbun, and shot him point blank. He was so close, the blast set fire to Rathbun's coat.**

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It came on March 1, 1892, at a town meeting. Casey showed up drunk, and threatened Henry Barber Rathbun.

Seeking to avoid trouble, Rathbun left the meeting with his son Everett, then 17, and went to a nearby store. Casey followed them, accompanied by his father, and the two stood outside the store daring Rathbun to come out.

Rathbun finally decided he had no choice, and walked out to confront his tormenters. As he approached them, the senior Casey drew his revolver and pointed it at Rathbun. Young Everett Rathbun jumped in and knocked the gun to the ground. Martin Casey picked it up, rushed at Henry Rathbun and shot him point blank. He was so close, the blast set fire to Rathbun's coat.

Casey and his father fled, and Rathbun was taken to a doctor's office, where he died a few hours later. He was 46 years old, and left a wife and five children.

A posse was organized by the sheriff, and a manhunt was launched to find Martin Casey. He was captured a short time later, hiding in a cow barn. We have been unable to find any record of a trial, but he was most likely charged with murder and again sent to prison.

The old Rathbone Family Historian in 1882 printed an article from a local newspaper which described Henry Rathbun as "a very kind man whose life was overshadowed for many years by the misfortune he seemed unable to avert. The family feel the loss very heavily, but have the satisfaction of knowing he was not incriminated in any way, having always endeavored to avoid the Caseys."

Editor Franklin P. Rathbone added: "The family at large will be glad to know that no shame rests upon the name in consequence of the sad affair."

Your editor spoke several years ago with Mrs. Bernice (Rathbun) Brenenstuhl, then 81, a granddaughter of Henry Rathbun's brother Orlo. She remembered her father, George Rathbun, telling about the shooting. George had been 22 at the time.

"The Rathbuns lived just outside Stephentown," she said, "in Cherry Plain on the Black River. They never carried guns, but the Caseys did. The Rathbuns and Caseys were always fighting. On one occasion, Martin Casey fired several shots at two of the Rathbun brothers as they drove by in a wagon.

"My grandfather, Elizur Reynolds, was a town constable and a member of the posse which captured Casey."

Henry Rathbun's wife, Clarissa, apparently never remarried, and died in 1917, aged 70. She is buried in Stephentown. In a letter printed in the old Rathbone Historian, she wrote that her husband "died a Christian."

Her son, Everett, who had tried to defend his father, married and moved away from the area. If he has any descendants, we have never made contact with them.



# Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

**333. GUY WHEELER<sup>6</sup>RATHBUN** (Amiziah<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1813 in Connecticut, and moved with his parents as a boy to Howard, Steuben County, N.Y. He was married March 3, 1834, at Geneva, N.Y., to Mary Ann Edson, born about 1814, parents unknown. They moved about 1837 to what is now Cordova in McDonough County, Ill., where his parents had settled in 1836. Tradition relates that Guy suggested the name Salem for the town, but his idea was rejected in favor of Cordova. Mary Ann died there on Nov. 1, 1846, and he was married a year later, on Nov. 17, 1847, to Emily Jane Hurd, born in May 1828, daughter of Nehemia and Electa (Averill) Hurd. Guy became a Methodist minister, apparently in the 1850s, later joined the Baptist Church, and finally left that church because of differing beliefs, and founded his own Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith. He traveled extensively as an evangelist, preaching his doctrines in many states. He moved to the Dakota Territory in the early 1880s, but returned to Cordova. He was described as a scholarly man, who studied in both Greek and Hebrew. He died at Cordova on Jan. 31, 1888. Emily died Dec. 21, 1905, in Chicago.

## CHILDREN

By Mary Ann

NAOMI WHEELER, born in 1834; died in 1846.

GEORGE, born in 1836; married Emma Moody.

JOANNA L., born Nov. 10, 1838; married Abraham Bolinger on Oct. 13, 1860.

HENRY WHEELER, born Nov. 10, 1841; married Louisa Zimmerman.

HENRIETTA (twin), born Nov. 10, 1841; married John Glasscock in 1857.

MORTIMER LORD, born in 1843; he enlisted in the Union Army during the



*Rev. Guy Wheeler Rathbun  
1813-1880*

Civil War and died of disease April 24, 1862, at Pittsburgh Landing, Tenn.

VICTORIA, born in 1845; was adopted after her mother's death by a family named Nobel.

By Emily

ALICE ELMIRA, born Sept. 2, 1848; married David M. Sarvis on Sept. 8, 1873.

OSCAR FITZALLEN, born Nov. 13, 1850; married Mary Pearsoll.

WILBUR WASHINGTON, born Feb. 8, 1853; married Teresa Summers.

ELECTA MIRANDA, born April 27, 1855; married Joseph C. Knott on Dec. 30, 1875.

ADINORAM JUDSON, born March 27, 1857; married Ida Brink.

ISABELLA **PAMELA**, born July 2, 1859; married David M. **Saris**, widower of her sister, Alice, on May 18, 1892.

See Corrections 11-4 p 61

CLARENCE EUGENE, born March 3, 1863; married Fannie C. Stewart.

MARY GERTRUDE, born April 27, 1866; married Peter Comstock on Feb. 28, 1889.

**334. WILLIAM RILEY<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Amiziah<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 19, 1815, in Connecticut or New York. He moved with his parents about 1836 to McDonough County, Ill., and was married there on Nov. 29, 1838, to Hannah Gillihan, born Oct. 14, 1814, daughter of Mark Hardin and Sarah (Askren) Gillihan. They moved to Grant County, Wisconsin, by 1850, and early in the 1850s he went to the California gold fields. Returning by boat in 1855, he died at sea on Oct. 30. Hannah lived another 50 years, and died Feb. 3, 1905, at Colchester, Illinois.

## CHILDREN

See Corrections 11-4 p 61

DELLIER (DELIA?) A., born Sept. 22, 1839; died Sept. 25, 1839.

HARRIET E., born Jan. 15, 1841; married Joseph Overton.

AMANDA M., born Jan. 13, 1843; died Feb. 13, 1849.

ALMINA A. (ALMIRA?), born April 3, 1845; died Sept. 21, 1845.

ALMIRA E., born Sept. 3, 1846; married George Creasey.

MILLARD **FILLMORE**, born Jan. 1, 1849; married Harriet Combest.

HENRY CLAY, born Sept. 15, 1851; married Anna E. Buckley.

**335. JAMES V.<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Amiziah<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Jan. 13, 1831, at Howard, New York, and moved with his parents as a boy to Cordova, Ill. He was married there on July 6, 1857, to Jane G. Moody, born Jan. 31, 1832, in England, daughter of George and Mary Moody. James was a farmer and stock raiser at Port Byron in

(continued on page 42)



Rock Island County, Ill., with a farm of 82 acres. He was an active Republican, and served in the Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. Jane died at Port Byron on **May 30, 1889**, and James died there Dec. 19, 1899.

## CHILDREN

SAMANTHA E., born about 1861; married William Parker in 1883.

JOHN G., born about 1863; married Hattie Wilcox in 1892. They had one child, named Mabel, in Jan. 1893, and were divorced in July 1896.

EMMA J., born about 1867; married William J. Farber in 1888.

**336. LORENZO DOW<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Amiziah<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 13, 1835, in Howard, N.Y., and moved with his parents as a baby to Cordova, Ill. He was married in Rock County, Ill., in 1860, to Mary E. Fuller, parentage unknown, who apparently died within a year or two. He was married again on June 20, 1862, to Margaret Jane Kimball, born Nov. 6, 1848, daughter of Hugh and Melinda Kimball. He died March 8, 1892, at Cordova, and Margaret was married two years later in 1894 to Israel Lambert. She died in 1928.

## CHILDREN

DAUGHTER (name unknown), born July 14, 1863; died in infancy.

ROSETTA, born Aug. 15, 1864; married William Hunt on Nov. 24, 1881.

FRANKLIN EDWARD, born Feb. 20, 1867; married Lenora Yerian.

ANNA ADELIA, born Jan. 8, 1870; married Orson Avery in 1888.

IDA MAY, born Sept. 28, 1873; married William Ecklebery in Nov. 1896.

NORMAN LORENZO, born July 25, 1878; married Ella G. Thompson.

## 337. ALEXANDER C.<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN

(Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1817 in Howard, New York, and moved with his parents about 1838 to Lee County, Iowa. He was married there about 1838 to Sally Ann Everett, born July 3, 1823, daughter of David Everett. He died in Lee County about 1849, possibly of tuberculosis, which took the life of his daughter Laura early the

following year. Sally moved with her three sons to live with her parents in McHenry County, Ill. She was married there on Oct. 10, 1850, to Harlow Barnum. She died Nov. 15, 1906, in Cloud County, Kansas.

## CHILDREN

DAVID ALBERT, born in August, 1839; married (1) Catharine Barnum, and (2) Sarah E. Ross.

WILLIAM WALLACE, born March 16, 1843; married Harriett Robinson.

FRANCIS MARION, born Feb. 18, 1846; married Mary Malvina Huppes.

LAURA, born in 1849; died of consumption in March 1850.

**338. JOHN B.<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born May 1, 1821, at Howard, N.Y., and moved with his parents as a young man to Lee County, Iowa. He was married there July 12, 1846, to Keturah Rose Corey, born Sept. 6 (or Nov. 25), 1826, daughter of Uzal and Lucinda Corey. They moved to Clark County, then Scotland County, Mo., where Keturah died August (or Oct.) 31, 1875. John was married the following June 28, 1876, to Eliza E. Bain, but died himself seven months later on Feb. 3, 1877. Eliza's death date is not known.

## CHILDREN

All by Keturah

See Corrections 14-3 p 45

**UZAL ALEXANDER**, born Sept. 11, 1847; married Martha Ann Clemens.

LAURA L., born in 1849; possibly died young, since she does not appear in the 1860 census. However, a Laura Rathbun was married on Aug. 11, 1868, in Dallas County, Mo., to Alexander Jones, and this may be her.

EMILY, born in April 1851; married William H. Smith on Sept. 18, 1870, and (2) Benjamin Galloup about 1879.

ALFRED A., born April 21, 1853; married Martha Susan Cline.

CHARLOTTE, born in 1855; married Daniel Cline on May 2, 1875.

NANCY A., born in 1857; married George B. Galloup on June 1, 1873.

**MARY ELIZABETH** (twin), born in 1857; married (1) Amzi Ingham on April 3, 1873, and (2) Lewis Edwards on Dec. 27, 1884.

ELON ELONZO, born Jan. 2, 1859; married Mary Elizabeth Hobbs.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, born Dec. 1, 1860; married Sarah Isabella Helena Hobbs.

JOHN RUSSELL, born Nov. 22, 1863; married (1) Sarah E. Pherigo, and (2) Flora May Billings.

JULIA ALICE, born July 6, 1867; married Marion Emmanuel Sills on Feb. 19, 1885.

**339. ALFRED<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 24, 1823, in Howard, N. Y., and moved with his parents as a young man to Lee County, Iowa. He was married there Nov. 12, 1843, to Mary Thorington, born about 1822, daughter of Samuel Thorington. They moved in 1851 to Clark Co., Mo., and in 1855 to Scotland Co., Mo., where Mary died March 31, 1872 (or 1874). He was married on July 1, 1874, to Mrs. Eunice (Hohstadt) Beckwith, a widow, and daughter of John Hohstadt. Alfred served with the Missouri Infantry during the Civil War, and was wounded three times. He died in Scotland County on July 26, 1896. Eunice's death date is not known.

## CHILDREN

See Corrections 11-4 p 61

LAURA, born Aug. 27, 1844; died Sept. 8, 1844.

JOHN HENRY, born Nov. 9, 1845; married Catherine Waters.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, born Feb. 7, 1847; married Sarah Olive Russell.

MARY ANN, born Dec. 16, 1848; died Sept. 20, 1849.

NANCY, born March 9, 1850; married Cadmus Clow.

ALFRED, born March 9, 1852; married Sarah Jane Campbell.

EMILY, born Dec. 17, 1853; married William Early on July 6, 1876.

WILLIAM, born Sept. 16, 1855; married Bernetta Rose Padgett.

CHARITY VALENTINE, born Feb. 14, 1859; Married (1) Ellsworth Phillips (or Phelps) on April 13, 1886, and (2) **Norris**.

**340. JOB OLIVER CROMWELL<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born May 20, 1826, at Howard, N.Y., and moved as a young man with his parents to Lee County, Iowa. He was married there on March 1, 1850, to Rebecca Jane Titus, born June 8, 1836, parentage unknown. Job



served in the Missouri cavalry during the Civil War, described as five feet ten inches tall, with blue eyes and dark hair. After the war, he moved to Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas. Rebecca died there on August 15, 1891, and Job, at the age of 66, was married on Dec. 8, 1892, to 28-year-old Mary Ann Ungar, born in Oct. 1864, parentage unknown. Job died Sept. 11, 1913, aged 87, having fathered 19 children by his two wives, the last when he was nearly 80 years old.

#### CHILDREN

By Rebecca

CALVIN EDSON, born March 21, 1851; married Pauline Hermann.

MARY ELIZABETH, born Aug. 26, 1852; died Sept. 18, 1853.

OLIVER MARION, born Feb. 26, 1857; died June 5, 1862.

CLARINDA JANE, born July 30, 1859; married Robert L. Harvey on May 21, 1876.

MARTIN CHESTER, born July 22, 1862; married Mary E. Gorrell.

LAURA SILVIA, born in 1865; married Robert Boyle on Dec. 13, 1884.

MINNIE MAY, born Nov. 13, 1867; died May 21, 1868.

LULA, born in April 1869; died in May 1869.

IDUMA CEOLA, born May 2, 1870; married Benjamin Franklin Johnson on Jan. 24, 1898.

ALBERT A., born June 6, 1873; died Feb. 9, 1874.

ETHEL, born about 1875; died young.

CHARLES F., born June 15, 1877; married Flavia Alvis.

JULIE, born about 1879; died young.

MILTON, born about 1881; died young.

By Mary Ann

ROSA MAY, born in Dec. 1893; married (1) Frank Clark on Aug. 31, 1916, and (2) Guy Parsons.

EDITH OLIVE, born in Nov. 1895; married Amil L. Schmallos on May 10, 1916.

EARL BYON, born in Jan. 1898; married Charlotte Wright and possibly others.

MARIE, born about 1900; died young.

HENRIETTA MARIE (OR IRENE), born Jan. 23, 1906; married (1) Vernon Cross, and (2) Ned Hester.

**341. ELONG<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1830 in Howard, N.Y., and moved as a boy with his parents to Lee County, Iowa. He was married Oct. 2, 1853, in Clark County, Mo., to Charlotte (Lottie) Corey, born March 8, 1836, a sister of his brother John's first wife, daughter of Uzal and Lucinda Corey. Elon joined the Union Army during the Civil War, was promoted to sergeant, and then commissioned a lieutenant. He was described as five feet five inches tall, with dark hair and grey eyes. After the war, they moved to Dunklin County, Mo., where he was appointed sheriff and tax collector by the governor. Charlotte died on Jan. 11, 1878, and Elon was married again on June 19, 1880, to Mrs. Mary Frances Gattis, a widow, born about 1855. He died in Dunklin County in January, 1883, leaving his wife with a seven-month-old son. She apparently moved to Illinois, but nothing more is known of her.

#### CHILDREN

By Charlotte

LUCINDA, born in 1854; no further data.

LEONIDAS, born about 1857; died of malaria as a teen-ager.

LORENZO DOW, born Aug. 3, 1861; married Isabelle Edwards.

LAURA, born about 1865; married James (or Joseph) Beckwith on Aug. 23, 1882.

LILLIAN MAY, born April 8, 1867; married (1) Wesley W. Henry on Sept. 15, 1884; (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Sloan, and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Egan.

LEONARD BLAND, born Feb. 8, 1872; married Birdie L. Heath.

By Mary

PORTER, born in August 1882; living in McDonough County, Illinois, in 1900.

**342. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born in Dec. 1836 at Howard, N.Y., and moved as a baby with his parents to Lee County, Iowa. He was married Oct. 14, 1865, in Scot-

land County, Mo., to Martha Guthrie, born in Feb. 1839, parentage unknown. They moved from Missouri to Crowley County, Kansas, by 1880, and by 1900 to Millville, California. By 1910 they were in Santa Cruz, Calif., where Martha died, date unknown. William died April 26, 1918, in the Soldiers' Home at Los Angeles, apparently a Civil War Veteran.

#### CHILDREN

JAMES W., born in August 1866; married Effie Keithley.

ELIJAH F., born in 1868; married Lorene S. \_\_\_\_\_.

MERRITT D., born March 13, 1874; married Ella N. Dunham.

#### 343. RENSSALAER<sup>6</sup> RATHBONE

(Spencer<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1796 in Colchester, Conn., and married there April 13, 1823, Elizabeth McCracken, born about 1796, parentage unknown. They moved by 1840 to Chatham, Conn., and by 1860 to Portland, Conn., where he died on Dec. 12, 1862. Elizabeth died in 1881. This family was not covered by Cooley's 1898 Rathbone Genealogy, and information is sparse.

#### CHILDREN

RENSSALAER, born about 1826; married Caroline E. Moore.

?JOSEPHINE H., born about 1838; married L.P. Stewart on Nov. 20, 1861. She and a daughter, Ida, 7, born in Mass., were living with Renssalaer Sr. in 1860. She could be either a daughter or daughter in law.

**344. ANTHONY<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Spencer<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1798 at Colchester, Conn., and married there Dec. 26, 1821, Abigail S. Beckwith, born about 1798, parentage unknown. They moved soon after their marriage to Hebron, Conn., where Anthony died Feb. 16, 1861. Abigail died March 8, 1880.

#### CHILDREN

HULDAH ANN, born about 1823; married William E. Latham on Nov. 24, 1847.

(continued on page 44)

(continued from page 43)

ORRIN R., born about 1830; died April 13, 1856, unmarried?.

CHARLES, born Aug. 5, 1832; married (1) Angeline Almeda Wells, and (2) Amelia Bolton.

?GEORGE N., born (?); died Sept. 20, 1845.

## 345. PHILANDER ALDEN<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN

(Samuel<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born July 24, 1805, in Williamstown, N.Y. He was married Feb. 12, 1832, at Fulton, N.Y., to Mary A. Ames, born April 20, 1811, daughter of Benjamin and Lydia (Noyes) Ames. He was a blacksmith, and in 1840 opened a hardware store in Oswego, N.Y., with his brother, George. Later in the 1840s, he built a grain elevator which he operated until it was destroyed in a fire. He was elected to the Oswego board of trustees in 1835, and from 1849 to 1852 served as Oswego County clerk. He died at Oswego on Feb. 1, 1865. Mary died there Dec. 20, 1891.

### CHILDREN

EDWARD NOYES, born Feb. 16, 1833; married Mary A. Comstock.

ANN ELIZA, born June 20, 1835; died May 15, 1838.

FRANCES E., born Dec. 11, 1836; married James C. Cooper on Feb. 12, 1856. He died in 1862, and on March 3, 1864, she married Dr. Augustus Pool.

HELEN M., born Aug. 21, 1838; married Henry R. Carrier on July 1, 1857.

JOHN HENRY, born Feb. 23, 1840; alive 1860, no further data.

MARY C., born Dec. 26, 1843; married Omer Leyns on Jan. 27, 1867.

WILLIAM PHILANDER, born March 27, 1847; married Rose Curtis.

KATHERINE A., born July 9, 1849; married Theodore Spaford on Dec. 4, 1872.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, born June 24, 1852; married Mary Coughlin.

**346. SIMEON<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 7, 1810, at Williamstown, N.Y. He was married April 21, 1834, at Cooperstown, N.Y., to Ann Eliza Matthews, born about 1816, parentage unknown. They moved soon after their marriage to Troy and then Utica, N.Y., where Simeon was a professional painter,

specializing in decorating coaches. Cooley reported that the first train of railroad cars in the United States were painted by him. Eliza died by 1870 in Utica, and Simeon a few years later moved to Woodbine, Harrison County, Iowa, where he died Jan. 25, 1883.

### CHILDREN

GEORGE W., born March 6, 1837; married Anna Banks.

CHARLES KENNEY, born Oct. 16, 1839; married Maggie McCarthy.

ELEVEN OTHER CHILDREN all died in infancy.

## 347. GEORGE W.<sup>6</sup> RATHBONE

(Samuel<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 12, 1814, at Richland, New York. He joined his brother Philander in the hardware business for a few years, then studied law and became an attorney in Oswego. About that time, he began to use the Rathbone spelling. He was married in New York City on Dec. 27, 1847, to Elizabeth Rathbun, born Jan. 28, 1829, daughter of Moses<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). They were living in Oswego in 1850, in Scott County, Minn., in 1860, and by 1870 in Middletown, Richmond County, N.Y. George died March 19, 1879, at Stapleton, Long Island, N.Y. Elizabeth was living in Brooklyn in 1900, but her death date is not known.

### CHILDREN

ELIZABETH JULIA, born Dec. 3, 1848; married (1) Joseph Denry on April 2, 1865, and (2) Charles Castle on April 30, 1873.

LOUISA MARIA, born Jan. 31, 1850; married Arthur Aiken on Nov. 15, 1868.

JOSEPHINE, born June 20, 1852; married Reuben Shephard on Sept. 17, 1871.

GEORGE FREDERICK, born June 29, 1854; married Deborah Brown.

ADELAIDE, born Sept. 22, 1856; married John Bauman July 8, 1877.

CORNELIA M., born Jan. 17, 1858; married John Scrymge on Feb. 24, 1892.

CORDELIA (twin), born Jan. 17, 1858; married John H. Dye on Nov. 22, 1881.

FLORENCE, born in Jan. 1860; died in infancy.

ELMER E., born Jan. 14, 1861; died in 1863.

## New Data

Diadema, daughter of William<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), married Abel Moses. We had not known his first name. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Elijah Rathburn, son of William<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), did not die of wounds suffered in the War of 1812 as reported in our Historian of July 1987. He died of disease, probably tuberculosis, contracted in July 1812 when his detachment invaded Canada and was attacked by a superior force of British and Indians. The Americans were forced to retreat back to Detroit in hot weather. Many died or were killed, and many others collapsed because of heat and exhaustion. Elijah, described as "a fleshy man," was among them. The Americans were taken prisoner in August when the British captured Detroit. Elijah was among those paroled a few weeks later. Unable to walk, he was carried by friends to a boat, taken across Lake Erie to Cleveland, and hauled by wagon to his home in Granville, Licking County, Ohio. He never recovered, and died two years later on July 20, 1814, six days after his 31st birthday. One of his fellow soldiers, Samuel Bancroft, testified that "Rathburn was sick in the Army, sick when he left it, sick on the way home and the same sickness continued until the time of his death." Bancroft also deposed that Elijah "died of consumption superinduced by the severe hardships that he endured in the Army." His widow, Cynthia (Messinger) Rathburn, then aged 30, moved with their four children to Meigs County, where she married Cornelius Piercy (not William Perry or Percy) on August 11, 1816. She and Piercy had five children and were married nearly 40 years. After his death on July 22, 1856, she applied for a Federal pension based on Elijah's war service. Eight years later (there was a Federal bureaucracy even then!), she was granted a pension of \$4 a month. Earlier, she had been awarded a land bounty of 160 acres. She died March 12, 1877, at Rutland, Ohio, aged nearly 93. Our thanks to Kathleen Kopke, a descendant, who located Cynthia's pension papers in the National Archives.



# Possible Solution to Old Family Mystery

One of the fascinations of genealogy is trying to solve family mysteries, Sherlock Holmes style, through deduction based on the study of old records.

Your editor here presents a probable answer to a mystery which has remained unsolved for nearly 180 years.

On March 5, 1813, in North Kingstown, R.I., John<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) made his will. After mentioning his wife Hannah, three sons and daughter and several grandchildren, he made a bequest to "my wife's granddaughter Hannah Dawley." He obviously meant that Hannah Dawley was only his wife's granddaughter, not his.

Records show that John's wife was Hannah Eldridge/Eldred, born in July 1737/38, daughter of Robert Eldridge and Hannah Rathbun<sup>3</sup> (Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She and John had four known children — Thomas, Sarah, John and Robert, all born between 1765 and 1774, indicating that they were married about 1764.

According to the death certificate of Hannah Dawley, who died June 24, 1858, in Coventry, R.I., she was born Hannah Rathbun on May 2, 1784, in North Kingstown, parents not listed. She was married about 1800 to Job Dawley (1777-1861).

Since she was born a Rathbun, and was not John's granddaughter, it is evident that her grandmother, Hannah Eldridge, had been married to another Rathbun before she married John.

Since Hannah (Rathbun) Dawley was born in 1784, her parents must have been born prior to about 1763. There are no Rathbun men in North Kingstown or the surrounding area who could be her father. The answer seems to be that Hannah was the illegitimate daughter of a Rathbun girl born before 1764.

The only possible girl in North Kingstown who fits this description is Mary Rathbun, born about 1759/60, daughter of John Rathbun's older brother Thomas, who was married in 1758, at North Kingstown. The town records have been severely damaged by fire, and this marriage is recorded on a badly charred page. The month and day are illegible, and all that can be deciphered of the

bride's name is the first letter, H, followed by an "o" or "a."

This Thomas was dead by 1770, when the will of his father Samuel left a legacy "to my granddaughter Mary, daughter of my son Thomas who is (or has) deceased." I had assumed that Thomas' first wife, "H\_\_\_\_," had died, and that he was the Thomas Rathbun, "mariner, of Rhode Island," who married Mary Waldron in New York City early in 1761 and died the following year. (See our Historian of July 1982.)

But now I suspect that Thomas' wife did not die, but outlived him. Perhaps he went to sea, and then married in New York without telling his new wife about his earlier marriage? Or possibly, the Thomas Rathbun of New York City was a different Thomas, although there is no other known Thomas Rathbun who fits.

It is my theory that Hannah Eldridge is the mysterious "H\_\_\_\_" who married Thomas Rathbun in 1758, and then after his death was married to his brother John Rathbun about 1763/4. And that Hannah Rathbun Dawley was the illegitimate child of her daughter Mary.

Several things tend to reinforce this theory:

John and Hannah named their first son Thomas — for his dead brother and her late husband?

The 1774 Rhode Island census lists John Rathbun in North Kingstown with one female over 16 (his wife Hannah); three males under 16 (their three sons), and two females under 16 (one is their daughter Sarah, born about 1770. The other is very probably Hannah's daughter Mary, then about 14).

The 1782 North Kingstown census shows John with a male over 50 (his father Samuel); two males and a female under 15 (his three youngest children, Sarah, 12; John, 10, and Robert, 8); one male aged 16 to 21 (his oldest son Thomas, 17), one male 22-49 (himself), and two females 22-49 (one would be his wife Hannah, the other was probably Hannah's daughter, Mary, then about 23.)

The 1790 census, less detailed than those earlier, shows one male over 16 (John himself), two males under 16 (his

youngest son John, and another unidentified young male), and three females, no age bracket given (they would be John's wife Hannah, then about 52; her daughter Mary, about 31, and, if my theory is correct, Mary's illegitimate daughter, Hannah, aged six.)

It should be noted that illegitimate children, while not so common as today, were not that rare in Colonial America.

I would welcome any comments, arguments or questions on this theory.

## Corrections

In our April 1991 issue (Obituaries), we reported incorrectly that Emil R. Rathbun was the son of Adolph<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>6</sup> Walter<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He was the son of Wesley B. Rathbun, and grandson of Adolph (or Dolphus). Our thanks to Clair Cornell, who noticed the error.

In our January 1991 issue, we listed members of our family who have served as state legislators or mayors. We have discovered another one — Clarence Mortimer Rathbun (1849-1909), who was elected mayor of Mountain Lake, Maryland, as a Republican in 1896. He was a son of Erastus<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Russell<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

Some members of our family take their politics seriously, but probably none so seriously as did David H. Rathbone in 1942. On May 20 that year, as World War II entered its fifth month, Rathbone, age 67, was convicted in a Los Angeles municipal court of criminally libelling President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Rathbone, in several pamphlets, called the President "a fool, an idiot or insane," according to an article in the New York Times. He was facing a possible sentence of 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Unfortunately, we do not know his exact sentence. Rathbone was the son of Joseph<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (Clarendon<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

# Melissa Tells More Details of Her Captivity

In our April 1991 issue, we related the story of Melissa Rathbun-Neely (now Mrs. Michael Coleman), who was captured by the Iraqis during the Persian Gulf War.

Melissa's parents, Leo and Joan Rathbun, have since become members of our Association, and recently sent us a clipping from a Texas newspaper, which carried Melissa's first public account of her experience.

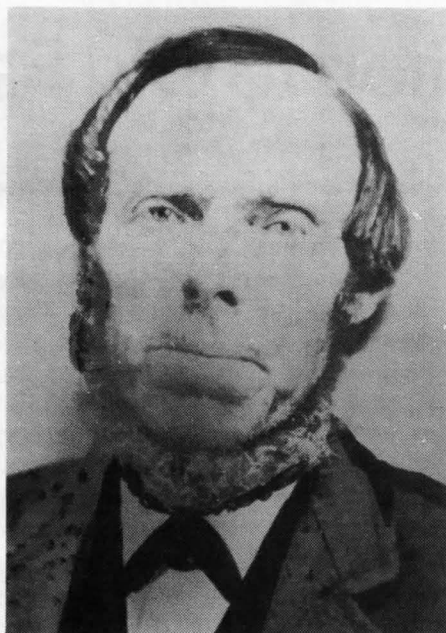
She told of good medical treatment for two wounds in one of her arms — one by a bullet and one by shrapnel. She was held prisoner in Baghdad, fed five meals a day, and was even given candy after she told her captors she loved chocolate. She was allowed outdoors six hours a day for exercise, and even played soccer with two of her guards.

Melissa, now 21, has been bombarded by news media, and has received numerous offers for book and movie rights. She said she may consider one book and one movie offer, but declined to discuss money.

Her enlistment in the Army expires next year, but she says she has not yet decided whether she will reenlist. Her new husband is also a soldier, and both are stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas.

(Editor's Note: Gail A. Rathbun of Berkeley, Calif., wrote your editor to question our description of Melissa as a "Rathbun Girl" in our story headline. Gail pointed out that since Melissa is serving her country in the Army and has been married twice, she should not have been called a girl.)

John Bowen has video tapes (VHS) of our 1989 Rhode Island Reunion, and of the Westward Migration program shown at our 1985 and 1987 reunions. They are available for \$34 each, postage included, by writing John at 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904. He also has Rathbun family crest pins available for \$5.50 each.



*This surprisingly clear picture is of Lewis<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (1806-1879), son of Amos<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), who was covered in our genealogical section in the July 1989 Historian, page 43. We recently received the picture from his descendant, Leo Rathbun, the father of Melissa (Rathbun) Coleman.*

## Major Rathbone Paper for Sale

We have been contacted by a manuscript dealer who is offering for sale a document signed by Henry Reed Rathbone, who was in the Presidential Box with Abraham Lincoln when the president was assassinated in 1865.

The document is a muster-in roll dated May 1, 1864, and signed "H.R. Rathbone, Capt. 12th US Infantry — near Petersburg, Va." Captain (later Major) Rathbone certified that he had examined Captain Edward F. Adams and accepted him for a three-year reenlistment.

Rathbone's signature on a military document is apparently quite rare, and the dealer estimates the document's value in the \$6,000 to \$12,000 range. The value is high because of Rathbone's association with the Lincoln assassination.

If any of our members are interested, let me know, and I will put you in touch with the dealer.

## New Data

Lysander Rathbun, son of Joel<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), had a third previously unknown marriage. He was married on Dec. 18, 1861, to Anna Eliza Newton in Claiborne Parish, La. His sister, Philomelia, was married there on Oct. 13, 1850, to Sanders Day. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Lydia, widow of Benjamin<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>5</sup> Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was married on Oct. 26, 1856, to John Davis in Bond County, Ill. Her daughter, Mary Rathbun, was married there on May 8, 1862, to John Baldt. Our thanks again to Rob Rathbun.

Lodisa (Roth) Rathbun, widow of Ansel<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Abel<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), was married by 1846 to Benjamin Ellsworth (1791-1878), and died sometime after 1870. Ansel must have died sometime prior to 1846. Our thanks to Gloria Kelley, a descendant.

Tamar Rathbun (1761-1809), daughter of Walter<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), apparently never married, but may have had an illegitimate son, Thomas Rathbun, born about 1790. Thomas appears in the 1830 block Island census with a wife, son and two daughters. Tamar was living with her father in the 1790 census, with an unidentified boy about 10, quite likely this Thomas. He probably married Elizabeth Tayer (1801-1888), whose death certificate in Newport, R.I., calls her a Rathbun widow. They may have had a son Walter, who was living in Seekonk, Mass., in 1850.

Additional information has been collected on James<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Joshua<sup>5</sup> Amos<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), whose genealogical data appeared in our Jan. 1989 Historian on page 12. James died June 2, 1894, in Adrian, Mich. His wife, Caroline, born about 1819, died five days later on June 7, 1894. Their son, Dewitt Gage (not George) Rathbun, married Seyoretta Trowbridge (not Walker). Their son Stephen married first Frances Eaton, and then Elva \_\_\_\_\_. Their son Charles, born in Aug. 1848, married Adeline \_\_\_\_\_. Our thanks for much of this new data to Helen Heyart, a descendant of Stephen.



# Obituaries

**DIED** — March 24, 1991, Alecia C. Rathbun, 67, wife of Roland Rathbun of Ballston Spa, N.Y. She had been ill for 25 years. Roland and Alecia were charter members of our Association and had been married for over 45 years. Roland is the son of Frank<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Herbert<sup>9</sup> Francis<sup>8</sup> Joshua<sup>7</sup> Abraham<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**DIED** — May 30, 1991, Mabel Lucille (Imlay) Rathbone, 93, at Fresno, California. She was the widow of Robert<sup>8</sup> Rathbone (Edward<sup>7</sup> Thomas<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Coggeshall<sup>4</sup> Abraham<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is survived by two sons, Keith and Kenneth Rathbone, both members of our Association, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**DIED** — April 3, 1991, Don Rodgers Rathbun, 82, at Wichita Falls, Texas. He was the son of Lewis<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>7</sup> Edmund<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). An Air Force pilot in World War II, he is survived by his wife, Mildred; four step-daughters; four step-grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. Ethyl (Rathbun) Grady, a member of our Association.

**DIED** — April 4, 1991, Amy (Gathman) Rathbun, 83, widow of Louie<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>8</sup> Roland<sup>7</sup> Acors<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). She is survived by six children, Raymond, a member of our Association, and Lois Taylor, John A. Rathbun, Pearl Rathbun, Judith Sommerville and Virginia O'Brian, and numerous grandchildren, including our member Rev. R. Van Rathbun.

**DIED**—April 25, 1991, Elizabeth (Betsey) Rathbun Dana, 66, at Portland, Ore. A member of our Association, she had been active for many years in peace and world government projects. She was on the board of directors of the International Peace Academy's Research Fund. She was a daughter of the late Lawrence Rathbun (a former member of our Association), son of Edward<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Oscar<sup>7</sup> Aaron<sup>6-5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Survivors include her husband Dr George W. Dana; two daughters, two sons and six grandchildren.

**DIED** — March 1, 1991, Jewett Parmiter, 92, of Athens, Ohio. A former member of our Association, he was a major contributor to the story of Harley (Diamond Jim) Rathbun in our July 1981 Historian. In 1971, he won \$98,350 in a national oil company's statewide Ohio lottery. He was the son of John Parmiter and Edith May Bell<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (David<sup>7</sup> Lewis<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). His sister, Edythe (Parmiter) Noble, died two months after Jewett, on May 4, the last of her family. Jewett is survived by two daughters, eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and a great-great-granddaughter.

**DIED** — April 23, 1991, Grace M. Rathbun, 95, at Auburn, Washington. She was the widow of Ford<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Albert<sup>8-7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Survivors include two daughters, Ailene Harvey and Jean Kartman; 13 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

**DIED** — May 26, 1991, Rolfe Rathbone, 91, of Kenwood, California. He was a son of Leland<sup>9</sup> Rathbone (Albert<sup>8</sup> Erastus<sup>7</sup> Abel<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). He was a chicken rancher for more than 60 years, and had served as fire chief and school board member. Survivors include his wife, Rosemond; two sons, James C. and Neal H.; a daughter, Janis Black; 10 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

See Corrections 11-4 p 61

**DIED** — June 12, 1991, **Charles A. Rathbun, 29, of Denver, Colo. He was a son of the late Charles<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>9-8</sup> James<sup>7</sup> Joseph<sup>6-5</sup> Jeremiah<sup>4</sup> Joseph<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Marjorie and Ray Hansen of Chetek, Wisconsin; three brothers, William, Stephen, and Daniel Rathbun; his grandmothers, Marjorie Rathbun and Mae Selvig, and a stepsister, Roxanne Hanson.**

**DIED** — March 11, 1991, Mary Rathbun Siverts, 86 of Glendive, Montana. She was the former widow of John Samuel<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>8</sup> Byron<sup>7</sup> James<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), who died in 1942. She is survived by five sons, William, Charles, John, Thomas and Dennis Rathbun; two daughters, Vivian (Rathbun) Degel and Kristee (Siverts) Smith; 40 grandchildren, and 63 great-grandchildren. Her second husband Chris Siverts died in 1964.

**DIED** — April 2, 1991, Charlie A. Rathburn, 61, of Valley View, Texas. He was the son of Harvey<sup>9</sup> Rathburn (Joseph<sup>8</sup> Aaron<sup>7</sup> Joseph<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). A Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, he is survived by his wife, Joyce; two sons, Darrell and Chuck; a daughter, Celina Rathburn; a grandson, and a sister, Mary Eade, a member of our Association.

**DIED** — May 8, 1991, Patricia Chivers, 73, at Indianapolis, Indiana. She was the daughter of Glenn R. Chivers and Lillis<sup>9</sup> Rathburn (Orestus<sup>8</sup> David<sup>7</sup> Lewis<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

## Births

**BORN** — April 18, 1991, Kevin Rathbun, son of Scott and Doreen Rathbun of New London, Conn., and grandson of our members Mr. and Mrs. George Rathbun of Pawcatuck, Conn. George is the son of Rollin<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Albert<sup>8-7</sup> Calvin<sup>6</sup> Samuel<sup>5</sup> Elijah<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**BORN** — April 9, 1991, Lauren Stokes Rathbun, daughter of Donald and Ann Rathbun of San Antonio, Texas, and granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. Donald Rathbun of El Paso, Texas. Dr. Rathbun is the son of Donald<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Chauncey<sup>8</sup> Byron<sup>7</sup> Levant<sup>6</sup> Joel<sup>5</sup> Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). The parents and grandparents are members of our Association.

**BORN** — June 7, 1991, William Grant Gasner, son of John and Pamela (Littlefield) Gasner, and grandson of our members Donald and Lydia (Rathbun) Littlefield of Block Island, R.I. Lydia is the daughter of Charles<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Joshua<sup>6</sup> Elias<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>).

**BORN** — Nov. 16, 1990, Glen Jordan Abbott, son of Scott and Cheryl Abbott of Backus, Minnesota. Cheryl is the daughter of Victor and Ruth Streeter, members of our Association. Victor is a descendant of Thomas<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).



# People

**DARYL GRANT HOLDREDGE** and Rita Maria Klubertanz were married May 25, 1991, at Milwaukee, Wisc. Daryl is the son of our members Virgil and Phara (Rathbun) Holdredge. Phara is the daughter of Ottie<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Marvin<sup>8</sup> David<sup>7</sup> Lewis<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**DR. EARL ANTES** has published a booklet on his family tree, entitled, "The Genealogy of Jacob and Catherine (Grimm) Antes." This couple migrated to the United States from Germany in the early 1850s. Dr. Earl is the widower of Gayle (Mitchell) Antes, a granddaughter of Frederic<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Edward<sup>7</sup> Charles<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5</sup> Amos<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**RALPH AND JEANNE CHUBBUCK** of Concordia, Kansas, members of our association, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 31, 1991. Ralph is a descendant of John Chubbuck and Jerusha<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Job<sup>5</sup> William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**DR. KATHERINE C. RATHBUN** has been named head of the Topeka-Shawnee County Health Agency in Kansas. She is the daughter of Leslie<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Leslie<sup>9</sup> Charles<sup>8</sup> Elliott<sup>7</sup> Benjamin<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Samuel<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is married to Edward Richards III, but has retained Rathbun as her professional name.

**PHILIP RATHBUN**, police chief of Reed City, Michigan, has been given the additional duties of temporary city manager pending the replacement of the former city manager, who resigned. Chief Rathbun is the son of Yale<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Lewis<sup>9</sup> Isaiah<sup>8</sup> James<sup>7</sup> Isaac<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**DONALD J. RATHBUN** of Coventry, R.I., and his daughter Donna were seriously injured July 14 in a traffic accident near their home. Donald, 51, had to cancel his plans to attend our reunion. He and Donna, 26, are both on the road to recovery. Donald is the son of our member Dorothy Rathbun, widow of Elmer<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Frank<sup>8</sup> James<sup>7</sup> Robert<sup>6</sup> John<sup>5-4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

## Our New Members

Richard and Donna Austin  
Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Christopher Davenport  
Vero Beach, Fla.

Nancy M. Ehrlich  
Placerville, Calif.

Vickie Kelly  
Skandia, Mich.

Lawrence Loker  
Blue Springs, Mo.

Robin Nelson  
Casper, Wyo.

Judith Pignone  
Waterford, Conn.

Leo D. Rathbun  
Newaygo, Mich.

Raymond E. Rathbun  
Fremont, Mich.

Rita Rae Rathbun  
El Paso, Texas

William & Nancy Rathbun  
Middle Granville, N.Y.

June Riley  
Coventry, R.I.

Jacqueline Schryer  
Hampton, VA.

Donna Stringfellow  
Vancouver, Wash.

Adelaide Titus  
Gloversville, N.Y.

Mary Frances White  
Florence, Alabama

**SHIRLEY RATHBUN** of Denver, Colo., underwent surgery July 11 for appendicitis, and is recuperating at home. She and her husband, Fred, had planned to attend our reunion, but had to cancel out. Fred is the son of of Fred<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Erastus<sup>7</sup> Erwin<sup>6</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**WAYNE RATHBUN** of Richland, Washington, had to cancel plans to attend our reunion with his wife Mildred after he was hospitalized with a heart problem. He is the son of Clark<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>7-6</sup> Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**CLIVE L. DUVAL 2<sup>nd</sup>**, a Virginia State Senator for 26 years, has announced that he will retire at the end of his current term this year. Duval, 78, and his wife Susan are members of our Association. Susan is a descendant of Stephen Kilton<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (Joshua<sup>6-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**MARK JOHN RATHBUN** and Sherri Lee Hendricks were married June 15, 1991, at Bowling Green, Ky. Mark is the son of John<sup>12</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>11-10</sup> Charles<sup>9</sup> Joel<sup>8</sup> John<sup>7-6</sup> James<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**WE THANK** the following members who have sent in family data, pictures, clippings and other material: Mary Van Epps, Frank E. Rathbun, Mabel Gebler, Lauren Landis, Evelyn Anderson, Grove and Janet Rathbun, Rob Rathbun, Helen Landis, Jim Chivers, Ellen Kenyon, Victor and Ruth Streeter, Vera Thyne, Gerald Reser, Mary Ellen Claypool, Bud Parfitt, Ethyl Grady, Bill Lieuellen, Kenneth Rathbun, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Janet Hayes, Phyllis Wingerack, Leo D. Rathbun, Edison Rathbone, Hazel Wood, Gail A. Rathbun, Roy D. Rathbun, Sherman Boivin, Vickie Kelly, Rosma Limbeck, Art Hutchinson, John Bowen, Kitty Kopke, Jean Peterson, Frank Dorman, Lydia Littlefield, Helen M. Rathbun, Antoinette McCreary, Fred C. Rathbun, Christopher Davenport, John Rathbone, Frank R. Wright.

We have recently learned of a lake and village in Ireland with the intriguing name of "Rathbawn." They are located near the town of Castlebar in County Mayo. The name is so close in pronunciation to our name, that there could be a connection. Anyone planning to travel to Ireland soon?