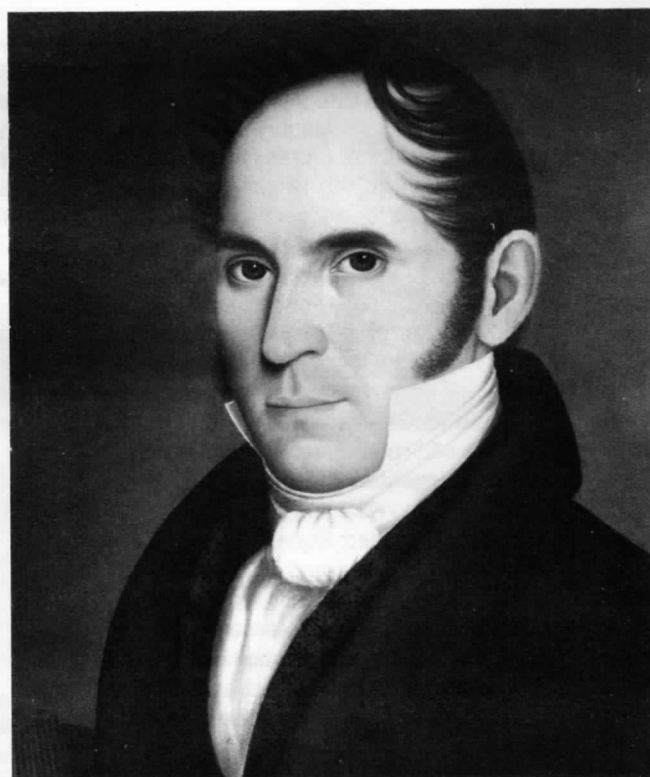


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

WILL

# FAMILY HISTORIAN



Elijah Rathbone  
(1792-1849)

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

## Letter from the Editor

As I write this in late December, some 490 of our 583 members of 1991 have renewed their membership in the Association. We will have to reach 500 to finance this year's Historians, and I am confident we will exceed that figure.

Our 1991 financial report is printed in this issue, and you will see that we ended the year with a deficit for the first time—\$146 in the red. Raising the dues to \$18 should enable us to end 1992 with a surplus. With this issue, we are using a somewhat lighter paper stock for the Historian so that we can get the postage per magazine down to 52 cents, rather than the 75 cents we have been paying.

Our obituary section is large this month, with many members listed. Willard and Jean Rathbun and his sister Helen Miltimore were killed in that terrible highway disaster in California (see story). We also lost Keith Rathbone, a long-time, active member, Oliver Rathbun, our oldest member at age 95, and Wilfred Rathbun, Caroline Stelzner and Harold W. Rathbun. Our sympathy to all their families.

You will notice a new feature in this Historian. At the right-hand top of each page is the line "Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn Family Historian." This is being done at the suggestion of a new member, Douglas E. Henne. He wrote me recently and offered some early

family data which someone had sent him "from some unidentified Rathbun newsletter." (!) When I informed him that the information came from our Historian, Doug explained that he had received only xerox copies of several pages, with no indication of the source.

From now on, when pages of our Historian are copied, the name of our magazine will be included. Thank you, Doug.

Bud Parfitt's letter to President Bush regarding a stamp to honor Captain John Peck Rathbun brought only another pro forma response from some White House bureaucrat. No one in the upper levels of the Postal Service or White House is the least interested. A recent news story announced that nearly 200 memorial stamps will be issued this year—including one to honor Elvis Presley! Last year, they issued stamps to honor Laurel and Hardy, and the ventriloquist Edgar Bergen and his dummy Charlie McCarthy.

It is a sad commentary on our national leaders' regard for the early heroes who fought (and in Rathbun's case, died) to create the United States of America. Bud is undeterred and plans to keep trying!

Several members wrote me about the article on Courtney Campbell in our last issue, and commented that a parkway near Tampa, Florida, had been named in his honor. I did some checking, and learned that the road was named for another Courtney Campbell, a Florida politician.

My appeal in the last issue for donations to the Block Island Lighthouse fund brought in another \$932, meaning that our members contributed a total of \$1832 to that worthy cause. A list of the most recent contributors appears elsewhere in this issue, and has been sent to Block Island with a check. My thanks to you all.

I received a warm letter of thanks from our member, Josephine Dugan, who lives on Block Island and is on the Lighthouse Foundation's board of directors.

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous check of nine

hundred dollars from the members of the Rathbun Family Association and your association's funds. Every contribution made our fund-raising drive successful. Thanks again... Block Island is Rathbun territory, and we abound in Rathbun descendants."

We have learned of another Rathbun who served as a mayor. Glen Chelsea Rathbun (1914-1989) served at least one term as mayor of Fort Pierre, S.D. He was also sheriff for some time. Glen was the son of Chelsea<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Henry<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). Our thanks to Dorothy Mueller.

Hazel and I send our sincere thanks to all of you who sent us Christmas greetings, and helped brighten our Christmas holidays.

*Frank*

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

**(703) 278-8512**

**Frank H. Rathbun**

**Editor & Publisher**

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## Financial Statement

### 1991 Income

Memberships (583 @ \$15).	\$8,745
Sale of Past Historians ..	1,680
Late Renewal Fees .....	300
Advance Dues .....	45
Donations .....	55
Total .....	\$10,825

### 1991 Expenses

Printing of Historian ....	\$5,597
Mailing Costs .....	2,702
Equipment & Supplies ..	1,413
Postage .....	443
Secretary's Wages .....	392
Research .....	353
Telephone .....	106
Miscellaneous .....	59
Total .....	\$11,065

Carryover from 1990 ....	\$240
Deficit for Year .....	\$146



# Three Association Members Killed in California Tragedy

**T**hree members of our Association were among the 17 persons killed in a massive traffic pileup the day after Thanksgiving in California. It was described as the worst multiple-vehicle accident in the nation's history.

The three victims were Willard Glasgo Rathbun, 68; his wife Jean, 69, and Willard's sister Helen (Rathbun) Miltimore, 70. Helen's daughter, Anne Miltimore, 44, was among some 150 persons who were injured. She was in critical condition for several days, but is now recovering.

Willard and Helen were children of Willard<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>).

The Rathbuns and Miltimores had just completed a 10-day visit in Orange County with the Rathbuns' daughter, Shirley Schweinberg. After celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday there, they left the next morning for home in the San Francisco area.

The accident occurred about 2:30 p.m., when a sudden windstorm blew a cloud of dust over Interstate Route 5 near Coalinga, south of Los Banos. A severe drought in the area had left the soil extremely dry.

Unable to see more than a few feet ahead, drivers slowed to a crawl, and many tried to pull off onto the road shoulder. Dozens of minor crashes ensued, and other cars and trucks began plowing into the stalled vehicles.

Within minutes, nearly 100 cars and 11 big trucks were involved in a series of pileups stretching for nearly a mile along the highway.

One truck driver managed to pull his 18-wheeler onto the shoulder, only to have five cars crash into his rig. Similar chain collisions occurred over and over. Several cars and trucks burst into flame, adding dense smoke to the dust-laden air.

Many motorists abandoned their autos and fled into nearby fields in panic. The highway was turned into a



*Willard and Jean Rathbun, California crash victims.*

nightmarish inferno. Crushed and battered vehicles littered the traffic lanes and shoulders; dead and wounded persons were strewn over the roadway, and screams of pain and terror filled the swirling, smoky dusty air.

Police were on the scene within five minutes, and reported that cars were still crashing into one another even after they arrived. A 100-mile section of the road was eventually closed to traffic, as police and ambulance drivers worked frantically to get the surviving victims to hospitals and haul away the wreckage. Some 15 of the vehicles had been burned down to their metal frames.

The Rathbuns' son John, who had been waiting for his parents to return that afternoon, became worried when they failed to appear on time. When he heard of the accident on radio reports, he began making frantic telephone calls to police and hospitals in the area, but could get no information.

Then, watching evening television footage of the scene, he spotted his parents' car. "It was behind a big rig. . . The front was bashed in and the side was wrecked," he told a reporter.

John Rathbun still hoped his parents might have survived but at 4 a.m. the next morning he was notified that they and Mrs. Miltimore were among the dead.

Willard, Jean and Helen were active members of our Association, and had attended our national reunion in Springfield, Illinois, last July.

Helen and her sister Joyce Marlow had attended our 1989 Rhode Island reunion, and from there they went to visit a niece in South Carolina. They arrived as Hurricane Hugo was descending on the area, and left just before that devastating storm hit. A month later, the

*(continued on page 9)*

# Old Letters Reveal Details of Elijah Rathbone's Life

This is the story of Elijah Rathbone, a most interesting early cousin, whose descendants have preserved many of his letters, enabling us to gain considerable insight into his life, his personality and his activities.

Elijah Rathbone was born April 24, 1792, in Colchester, Conn., the youngest of four brothers who immigrated to the New York frontier in the early 1800s and became prominent social, business, financial and military leaders. They were the sons of Moses<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) and his wife, Olive Ransom.

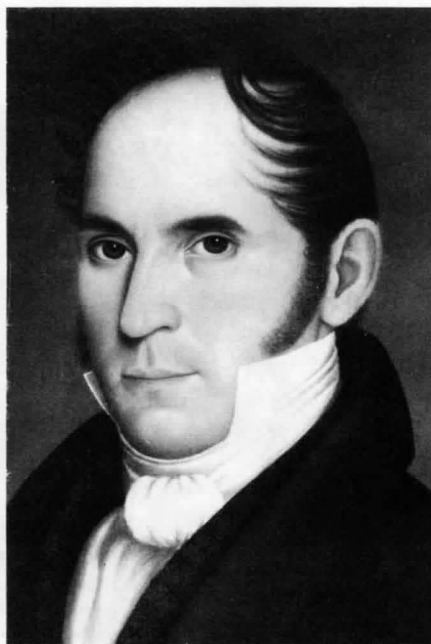
Moses and Olive had five sons who survived—Amasa, Ransom, Israel, John and Elijah. Elijah's twin brother, Elias, died at the age of 10 months.

Amasa remained in Connecticut, but the other four surviving sons "went west" as young men.

Ransom settled in Oxford, Chenango County, N.Y., built a paper mill and became an influential citizen. He was active in the local militia and rose to the rank of Brigadier General. Late in life, he moved further west to Steuben County, and founded the town of Rathboneville. We are planning a later story on his life.

Israel went first to Niagara County, N.Y., and went into business in the village of Buffalo. He went bankrupt in 1818 and was arrested for non-payment of debts. His possessions were seized to pay off his creditors. He then moved to Leroy, Genessee County, where he became a successful banker. He too joined the militia, and became a major.

John moved first to Oxford with his brother Ransom, then settled about 1814 at the nearby village of Greene, where he opened a general store. He also joined the militia and was a lieutenant in 1817 and quartermaster from 1818 to 1823. He prospered for a while, then, according to a county history, "became dissipated and impoverished."



*Elijah Rathbone, painted about 1826 by Reuben Rowling. The original is owned by his great-grandson Perry T. Rathbone.*

Elijah apparently went with John to Oxford, then Greene, and was possibly associated with his brother in business. Like his older brothers, Elijah joined the militia. He was a lieutenant in 1817, paymaster in 1818, adjutant in 1819 and a colonel by the early 1820's.

In 1823, after his brother John went out of business and moved from the area, Elijah opened a general store in Greene with Alvah Hatch as his partner.

The following year, Elijah unwittingly became involved in a bitter dispute with one of the village's leading citizens, Charles Cameron, land agent for the Hornby family which had originally owned the land where the village was developed. Cameron was a middle-aged man who was the unofficial "squire" of the community.

Cameron had a teen-aged niece who had become his ward, and lived with

him and his wife in their imposing residence.

Elijah Rathbone, as an up-and-coming businessman, became friendly with the Camerons, and was a frequent visitor at their home. He was then 32 years old, handsome, intelligent and personable. Cameron's teen-aged niece promptly fell in love with him, and apparently thought the feeling was mutual.

Elijah recognized the girl's feelings, and not wanting to encourage her, stopped calling at the Camerons.

The young lady, feeling rejected, went in tears to her uncle, who fired off a strong letter to Elijah on Feb. 28, 1824.

"Col. Rathbone—Sir: I am compelled by a sense of duty to address you on a very unpleasant subject. It was not until this day that I was made acquainted with the situation in which you stood in relation to my niece. Your conduct requires an explanation which I take this method of requiring of you.

"That a man at your time of life would gain the affections of an innocent, young, unthinking girl—and after entering into a solemn engagement which has ever been held sacred by men of honour and integrity, you should forsake her without a just cause for such conduct is what I never could believe of you.

"That you for whom I entertained the most affectionate and disinterested friendship should treat so near a relation of your friend in the manner you have . . . shows a disposition that I can hardly believe you to possess. Her character and standing in Society is equal to yours in every respect, and you cannot nor dare not impute anything disreputable to her or her relatives.

"A connection with you . . . I never sought after, and if you and others have imputed what trifling civilities I may have shown you to such a motive, you are very much mistaken. You owe an explanation to the feelings of a family whose child you have injured in the tenderest point, and if you intend to sup-



port the character of a Gentleman in Society, you will do so. If not, I shall leave you to your own reflections and shall take every opportunity of showing you to the world in your true character.

"I wish not to be understood as throwing out any threats. The common mode of obtaining redress for such injuries (Editor's Note: a duel!) will never be resorted to by me, were I even in possession of the most pointed proofs. Any recompense obtained in that way would be a poor satisfaction to the relatives or the feelings of her you have most injured.

"All I require of you is the reason why you have changed your conduct. You as a Gentleman and a man of honour owe this to yourself as well as to the wounded feelings of a family who have always treated you with kindness and respect. And be assured that I shall require it of you. I have never had the disposition, nor am I yet too old as to sit quietly down and put up with the insult so pointedly offered.

"This is a very unpleasant subject and it is with the deepest regret that I am compelled to hold such language to you, for whom I have always had such high esteem."

Elijah must have read this letter with amazement and dismay, but he wasted no time in drafting an equally strong reply, which he sent to Squire Cameron the following day:

"C. Cameron, Esq.—Sir: Your letter of yesterday is received and I cannot sufficiently express my astonishment (underlined) when I reflect on its contents. I shall make a few remarks on the subjects as they arise.

"Firstly, that you should be ignorant of my feelings with regard to your family. Secondly, that I was under a 'Solemn Engagement' (underlined) with your niece. I am yet to be informed what constitutes an 'engagement.' If politeness in common with all or any... does so, then I may (underlined) be 'Solemnly engaged.' If not, I surely am not, for I declare... that I am not now nor ever was under a solemn engagement to any female whatsoever.

"I must take this occasion to thank you for the disinterested friendship you profess formerly to have felt for me, and can assure you that I always have had

an excellent opinion of you and your family. No consideration whatsoever would induce me to speak disreputably of your niece or your family... and in your own language I 'defy' you to produce an instant that I ever have.

"You say I owe an explanation and am duty bound to do so if not legally. If what I have said or may say is not enough, you will please 'show me to the world'... as I am willing my reputation should be tested by the public at large.

"You next require my reasons for change of conduct. They are simply these: my change of conduct was not from any malice or ill will toward you or any part of your family, but to prevent the anticipation of your niece on a subject (Editor's Note: marriage) that cannot take place.

"I therefore thought that any further visits to your house might be misconstrued and that it became my duty to break short that friendly intercourse to avoid further misunderstanding, if any there had been.

"Now Sir, these are abridged but comprehensive reasons for my conduct, and given in sincerity as required, altho I am sorry it should have become my painful (underlined) duty to speak this plain. Further, I think you in the latter part of your communication used language altogether uncalled for on this occasion... Sir, I feel conscious that I do not make such charges that you in severity have set forth against me so frequently in your letter. But nevertheless Sir, I submit to your better judgment and remain your friend as usual."

Elijah's forthright explanation apparently was not accepted by Cameron, and the two families broke off all contact. The breach was to last for 16 years.

About that time, or shortly thereafter, Elijah, met 21-year-old Eliza Betts, the lovely and talented daughter of Judge Peter Betts of nearby Bainbridge, a former member of the New York State Legislature.

One of Elijah's letters to Eliza, written on Jan. 21, 1825, still survives:

"My Dear Eliza; I have only time to say that it will be very inconvenient for me to be at Bainbridge on Sunday. I shall therefore deprive myself of the greatest pleasure in life, as, my dear

girl, I am never so happy as when in your presence. You may depend on seeing me a week from Sunday. I remain my dear Eliza, your affectionate lover—E. Rathbone."

They were married three weeks later, on Feb. 15, 1825, at the Episcopal Church in Bainbridge, and moved into Elijah's home at Greene.

Elijah was an ambitious man, with great energy. In 1826 and 1827, he made frequent trips to Baltimore, Maryland, by riverboat down the Chenango River to the Susquehanna, and then south on the Susquehanna through Pennsylvania and Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay, hauling lumber probably on flat boats. The lumber was tied together in rafts on the bay, and floated down to Baltimore for sale. It was a trip of more than 150 miles, and must have taken many days.

Several of Elijah's letters to Eliza during this period have also survived, written from Baltimore or from Port Deposit, at the mouth of the Susquehanna on Chesapeake Bay. The letters show the strong affection he felt for his wife of only 14 months.

"Port Deposit, April 9, 1826: My Dear—I arrived at this place last night and am very much disappointed in not finding our father. I feel as though I ought to apologize for not writing you before. I have several reasons which if fully explained would I presume be satisfactory, but as I have no time at present, will omit the explanation until I see you.

"I had a long and rather tedious passage down the river. I have got all of our lumber on the water. Mr. Haynes will commence putting it in his float tomorrow and expect to start it for Baltimore in about two weeks. I cannot as yet make any calculations what time I shall be home. Will leave for Baltimore in 10 or 12 days at which time I shall expect to receive a letter from you. Shall be very much disappointed if not. Oh my dear you cannot imagine how anxious I am to know how you are and how you get along. Don't fail to write me immediately on the receipt of this and direct your letter to Baltimore..."

(continued on page 8)

# Early English Cousin Was Prominent Minister in 1600s

**J**ohn C. Cooley in his 1898 Rathbone Genealogy erroneously stated that a Richard Rathbone was the founder of our family in America, and added that his eldest son, "Rev. William Rathbone resided and preached in Vermont in 1620" and "was spoken of in a work published in 1637 and reprinted in the Historical Collections of Massachusetts."

Although we have since shown that there was no such Richard Rathbone (Historian of Jan. 1981), Cooley's reference to Rev. William Rathbone was intriguing, even though Vermont did not even exist in 1620.

Your editor over the years has determined the identity of this mysterious minister. He was the Rev. William Rathband, probably a corruption of our name, who was a prominent and controversial religious writer in England during the mid-1640s.

This Rev. William was born about 1590, probably in Lancashire County, and may have been a cousin in some degree to our early ancestors there.

His name first appears in the Parish of Bury, Lancashire, where the church records show the burial in February 1615 of "Grace, wife of Mr. Rothbone, preacher at Holcomb."

About three years later, he was married again to a wife named Judith. Their son Abel was baptized at Bury Parish on Sept. 12, 1619. In August 1622, "Joab son of Mr. Rothbone of Tottington" was baptized, and on Jan. 30, 1624, was buried. Three years after that, the family appears in the records of nearby Bolton Parish, where "William Rathband, son of William of Little Leaver," was baptized on April 30, 1627.

These meager records tell us that Rev. William was preaching as early as 1615, and lived at various times in Holcomb, Tottington and Little Leaver, all small villages in southern Lancashire County.

During the 1630s, the Church of England was splitting into two warring factions—the traditionalists or Presbyterians who believed in a strong central church government, and the Congregationalists, who thought each congregation should be self governing. Church historians call their respective beliefs "government from the top down (Presbyterian)," or "government from the bottom up (Congregationalists)."

The Congregationalists were strongly influenced by the teachings of John Calvin (1509-1564), a French theologian who stressed a rigid moral code and believed that salvation came only through God's grace.

The founder of English Congregationalism was Robert Browne (ca 1550-1633), whose followers, called Brownists, rejected the supremacy of the monarchy and the crown-appointed Bishops, and wanted all ruling power to be in the hands of pastors, elders and deacons, appointed by members of each congregation.

Rev. William Rathband's early views are not known. He was obviously not in favor with the bishops, for at some point, date unknown, he was "silenced" or ousted from his pulpit.

The Rev. Oliver Heywood (1630-1702) wrote in his memoirs: "My father . . . brought Peter Bradshaw from London into Lancashire and procured him a settlement at Cockey after good old Mr. Rathband's silencing." Rev. Heywood also wrote of his own strong admiration for "old Mr. Rathband, that reverent and eminent man of God (who was) silenced by the Bishops."

Rev. William was apparently not silenced for long. He became pastor at Ainsworth Chapel in Lancashire and emerged as a leading spokesman for the Presbyterian viewpoint.

During the 1630s, there was a growing emigration from England to America, where Congregationalism became the rule. This resulted in a

trans-Atlantic controversy expressed in a series of books and pamphlets published in both England and America.

Rev. William, who had moved to London by the 1640s, leaped enthusiastically into the fray.

Books at that time carried long and cumbersome titles, as in the following from Rathband's first known book:

"A letter of many ministers in Old England, requesting the judgement of the reverend brethren in New England concerning nine positions written in 1637, together with their answers thereto returned in 1639, and the reply made unto the said answers and sent over unto them in 1640. Published by Simon Ash and William Rathband, London, 1643."

That same year, he was named by the British House of Lords to the prestigious Assembly of Divines, which included some of England's most prominent religious leaders. He had apparently amended his views enough to win the favor of the bishops who had once "silenced" him!

Then in 1644, Rev. William issued a strong criticism of American Congregationalism in another book entitled, "A Brief Narration of some Church courses held in opinion and practice in the churches lately erected in New England, by W.R., London, 1644."

This brought an American counter-attack from Rev. Thomas Wilde, pastor at Duxbury, Mass., who published "An Answer to W.R. (and) his narration of the opinion and practices of the churches lately erected in New England."

Rev. William responded with "A Most Grave and Modest Confutation of the Errours of the Sect called Brownists or Separatists."

In this, Rathband seemed to be also entering into the fight against the Puritan "separatist" viewpoint that the American churches should disavow any connection with the Church of England.

Rev. William died in London some time in the late 1640s, but his name, variously spelled, continued to appear in the cross-ocean debate.

In 1651, Rev. Edward Johnson of Woburn, Mass., published "Johnson's Wonder-Working Providence of Sion's Saviour in New England," and stated that, "The author will . . . set down the manner how this people have populated their towns and gathered their churches, that the Rev. Mr. Rathbone may be better informed than when he wrote his book concerning the Churches of New England."

In one of his chapters, Johnson wrote: "I wish . . . Mr. Rathbone (and others) would but inform themselves further by the truth of this history."

The Rev. Richard Mather (1596-1661), founder of a distinguished line of American ministers, also wrote an answer to Rev. William, but it apparently has not survived.

On April 7, 1681, Mather's son Nathaniel wrote to his brother Increase, asking for a share of their father's papers. "I remember that he did write an answer to Mr. Rathband," Nathaniel wrote.

This letter and other Mather manuscripts were published by the Massachusetts Historical Society in the early 1800s, and this was probably the reference used by Cooley to infer that Rev. William had come to America.

Rev. William Rathband's second wife Judith died in 1653, and in her will dated March 13, 1650, described herself as "late wife of Mr. William Rathband, minister of Christ and Preacher of the Word of God."

Rev. William, whose descendants used both the Rathbone and Rathband spelling, had three sons who survived to maturity.

By his first wife, he was the father of Rev. Nathaniel Rathband, born about 1615, who was granted a master's degree at Edinburgh College in 1632, and became a minister in Lancashire and York counties. He was married and had several children, including a son, Rev. Nathaniel Jr. (1664-1702).

By his second wife Judith, Rev. William had two sons who survived—Abiel and William.

Abiel, born in 1619, also graduated at Edinburgh, became a minister at Writ-

tle, in Essex County, and died in 1650, leaving a wife, Elizabeth, a son, Zephaniah, and a daughter Elizabeth.

William Jr., born in 1627, earned a bachelor's degree at Cambridge in

1646, a master's in 1648, and was a fellow at Oxford in 1650. He was vicar of South Weald, Essex, from 1650 to 1662, when he was "ejected." Perhaps he had inherited some of his father's argumentative spirit!

## Buzz Saw Rips Chest Open, But Rathbun, 64, Survives

By Russell G. Rathbun

In the early spring of 1926, my grandfather, John Russell Rathbun, suffered a terrible accident while sawing wood—he was almost cut in half by a buzzsaw. He survived the tragedy in what was surely a medical miracle, and lived another 11 years, only to die in a traffic mishap.

John and a young helper were cutting wood on a cold February day on the Solomon River in Mitchell County, Kansas. John was a healthy and active man of 64 years, but the ground was slippery with snow and ice.

The two were carrying a large log to the buzzsaw when it happened. The younger man slipped and fell, dropping his end of the log, which bounced out of control and pushed John into the running buzzsaw.

John was cut diagonally from his right hipbone across his abdomen and chest up to his left arm—a raw, ugly gash 19 inches long and several inches deep. Some of his ribs were cut through, part of one lung was slashed, and his horrified helper could actually see Rathbun's heart beating through the gash in his open chest.

The young man loaded John on a wagon and drove him to the nearest doctor, in the city of Beloit. The office was on the second floor, and John, with his friend's help, managed to walk up a long flight of stairs to the doctor's office.

The doctor took one look and decided that John could not live with such a wound. He told the young man to notify the family.

My father, Clark Rathbun, lived in Wendell, Idaho, at the time, and left immediately by train as soon as he received the telegram telling him of the accident. He arrived at Beloit, expecting to attend his father's funeral, but found John still alive.

With virtually no treatment from the skeptical doctor, the cut was already starting to heal. Clark stayed in Kansas for several weeks, and when it became apparent that his father was recovering, he headed back to his farm in Idaho.

John made a full recovery, although an ugly scar remained as a vivid reminder of the accident. He was able to lead a normal life, and even tried cutting wood again the following year, only to slip and fall down a river bank. The fall opened up the wound again, and John was taken back to the same doctor.

This time, the doctor took the time to clean out the wound, and removed pockets of sawdust and parts of a wool sweater that John had been wearing at the time of the original accident. The sawdust and wool scraps had remained in the wound, and were covered over when it healed!

My grandfather did receive one benefit from the near tragedy. He had been bothered by asthma nearly all his life, but it somehow was cured by the accident. He was free of asthma the rest of his life. Maybe it was because one of his lungs was opened and drained.

(continued on page 9)



(continued from page 5)

"My health has been very good ever since I left you. Let me hear from you soon. I remain my dear, yours affectionately. E. Rathbone."

A week later, he wrote that he had received two letters from Eliza and told her he "was quite overcome with joy." She had apparently sent him a list of things to bring home for her, and he wrote:

"I cannot spend my money more to my satisfaction than to get such things as will please her whom I sincerely love. . . . Any other articles you may want let me know before I leave for N. York. . . . I hope to get another letter from you soon. Don't give yourself any uneasiness about me. I am in perfect health and will be home as soon as possible."

He took more lumber down the river in the spring of 1827, and on April 27 wrote to Eliza from Baltimore:

"Mr Pearsall this moment told me he takes the steamboat this afternoon for home. . . . I therefore have only time to say to my dear wife that I am in perfect health. I arrived here Saturday. Left Port (Port Deposit) the day before. Our father is here and well. He will be home in a few days. . . . My lumber is in a float on the bay and will be here in 6 or 8 days. I will get through as soon as possible and hasten to my dear Eliza. . . . In extreme haste I remain your affectionate husband—E. Rathbone."

In the next few years, as the village of Greene grew and prospered, Elijah and his partner Alvah Hunt expanded their business. In 1837, they took on William Hatch as a third partner, as the firm of Rathbone, Hunt and Hatch, dealing in dry goods and general merchandise. Their business block is still standing in Greene.

They also, about that time, built a large hotel, which they named the Chenango House.

Alvah Hunt had become deeply involved in politics, serving as state senator from 1837 to 1842, and as state treasurer from 1847 to 1851. He withdrew from the partnership about 1844, as did Hatch, and Elijah took Benjamin H. Thurber as his new partner.

Rathbone's unbounding energy led him into many fields. He was a founding member and vestryman of Greene's Zion Episcopal Church, and served on its building committee. He was one of the leading promoters of the Chenango Canal during New York's heyday of canal building.

In 1840, the Rathbone-Cameron feud finally came to an end. On July 22 that year, Squire Cameron, by then an old man, wrote a long-overdue letter of apology:

"Col. E. Rathbone, Esq.—Dear Sir—It has been a matter of great regret to me that a difficulty of such a nature should exist between our families as to prevent that social and friendly intercourse which ought always to take place between neighbors and which originated in a misunderstanding and was increased by the tattle of talebearers that prevented any attempts at a reconciliation on our part.

"These feelings have now vanished and never to be thought of again. They have for a long time past given way to a more charitable and Christian feeling. And if in some instance we have been to blame, we ask and sincerely hope for your forgiveness.

"Mrs. Cameron is now very feeble and cannot long remain with us. And hoping that this will be received in the same spirit in which it is sent, Mrs. Rathbone will see her soon.

"I am Dear Sir, yours in (peace?), Chas. Cameron."

The letter must have been most welcome to Rathbone, as indicated by the fact that he, and later his wife, kept it with their valuables until their deaths.

Elijah had a close and loving relationship with his wife's parents, Judge and Mrs. Betts, and always referred to the Judge as "our father" in his letters. In 1848, a severe epidemic (possibly typhoid) struck in Greene, killing many people. Judge Betts, concerned over the Rathbones' safety, wrote from Bainbridge on Aug. 9, 1848:

"My dear children: We are almost hourly hearing of so many sudden deaths in Greene that we feel very much alarmed, fearing it may be that some of your family may not escape the disease which is so prevalent in your village, and

hearing that some of the villagers had left, very prudently too from reports, I told your mother I thought I would write to have you all come to Bainbridge. She approved of it, and we all wish you might lock up and come make us a long visit.

"We will endeavor to make it agreeable. It has all day troubled us very much knowing that Eliza and Peter B.'s health was very feeble and a little attack could prove fatal to them. . . . I beg of you consider my entreaties. . . . From your affectionate parents. Our love to you all, not forgetting your niece Miss Caroline, who we should be happy to see also."

Peter B. was Elijah and Eliza's only son, Peter Betts Rathbone, born Aug. 12, 1828, and named for her father. A later son, Elijah, born in 1842, died as a baby. The Rathbones at some point adopted a daughter, Mary Eliza. The niece Caroline mentioned in the letter was possibly Caroline Palmer Rathbone, born in 1829, daughter of Eliza's brother Israel.

Nothing more is known of Elijah's life. He died on June 21, 1849, at Greene, aged 57. The cause of death was listed as dysentery, but this was probably only a symptom of a more severe disease—possibly the flu, typhoid, cholera or diphtheria.

Eliza lived another 24 years, and died in 1873 at the home of her son Peter in Syracuse. She was buried at Greene by the side of Elijah. She saved the early letters which we used in this story, and passed them along to her descendants.

(Our thanks to Perry T. Rathbone, Elijah's great-grandson, for providing us with copies of the letters, and with a copy of Elijah's striking portrait.)

In our article on twins in the April 1988 Historian, Beryl Beerenstrauch has noted a correction on page 20. Her husband, Ervin, is also a twin, but his twin is a brother, Ernest, not a sister Doris. However, Doris is the grandmother of twins. Also, the names of her Aunt Etta May (Rathbun) Prather's twins were Velma and Zelma.

(continued from page 3)

disastrous 1989 California earthquake was centered near Helen's home, which suffered minor damage.

Willard Rathbun was a retired building estimator, and Jean a part-time beautician. They spent much of their time traveling, usually by car, visiting relatives in California, Washington and their original home area in Idaho.

Willard and Helen had both sent in their renewal checks for 1992 membership in our Association. At the suggestion of their sister, Joyce Marlow, the money has been added to the Block Island Lighthouse Fund in their memory.

## Buzz Saw

(continued from page 7)

He later operated a greenhouse (he gave up sawing!), and died in a traffic accident on June 18, 1937, at the age of 76. John was the father of 10 children. Only the youngest, David, is still living at the age of 88. John's many descendants today are living in nearly every state west of the Mississippi, including Alaska.

(John Russell Rathbun was the son of John<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). We thank Russell G. Rathbun, one of his many grandsons, for sharing this remarkable story with us. Russ was unable to find a clear picture of his grandfather to use with this story.)

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## Latest Donors To Lighthouse Foundation

Since our last report, we have received an additional \$932 from our members for the Block Island Lighthouse Fund, making our total contribution \$1832. Following is a list of the most recent donors:

Mary Hermansky, Ralph and Frances Rathbun, Virgil and Phara Holdredge, Dorothy M. Hladik, Mildred P. Rathbun, Lester and Louise Duffey, Rev. William and Dorothy Rathbun, Elaine Flathers, Jane Wyckoff, Florence Selleck, Mary Lou Byom, Virginia Lindley, Patricia Glein, Edison J. Rathbone (in memory of Richard Rathbone Adamson), Robert and LaPrelle Weatherford, Ray and Antoinette McCreary, John Q. and Mary Rathbone, Terry Carnahan, Dorothy Schumann, Bernice Rathbun, Orlando and Anna Angelini, Margaret Harding, Walton Rathbun, Robert R. Rathbun, Mary Ellen Claypool, Robert B. Rathbun, Esther Cassell, Jean Whittington, Eileen Emerson, Joyce Simmons, Helen Miltimore, Philip Gagliardi, Juliette Rathbone Finch, Sharon Shein, Mildred Rathbun, Eleanor Eckert, Josephine S. Dugan, Dolly Rathburn, Kenneth and Jean Conningham, Bobby D. Rathbun, George L. and Ruth Rathbun (in memory of George Donald Rathbun), Keith and Elizabeth Rathbun, and in memory of Willard and Jean Rathbun and Helen Miltimore.

**DIED**—Feb. 11, 1991, at Springfield, N.Y., Oliver Newell Rathbun, aged 95, the oldest member of our Association. He was one of our charter members in 1981 and supplied much information on his branch of the family. Oliver had also done much genealogical work on the Wikoff family of his wife and his mother. He was the son of George<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Levant<sup>7</sup> Williams<sup>6-5</sup> Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). His wife, Daisey, died in 1976. He is survived by a daughter, Mary (Mrs. Edward) Kolb; a sister, Mary Lybeck; five grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

**WE THANK** the following members who have sent in family data, pictures, clippings and other materials: Carl Jordan, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Franklin A. Dorman, Cheryl Jensen, Ellen and Elwin Kenyon, Ronald J. Rathbun, Mary Ellen Claypool, Helen M. Rathbun, Phara Holdredge, Victor and Ruth Streeter, Richard Parfitt, Donald A. Rathbun, Lauren Landis, Edward E. Rathbone, Rob Rathbun, Howard J. Rathbun, Sherman Boivin, Meryl Zimmerman, Reba Reeves, Jacquelyn Hannah, Helen Heyart, Janet and Grove Rathbun, Bruce M. Rathbun, Mildred Rathbun, Col. Robert Allen Greene, Rose Hirasawa, Josephine Dugan, Ben and Rosalie Rathbun, Lorraine Barrick, Joan Byers, Glenn and Louise Rathbun, Irene Trumble, Dolly Rathburn, Eugene W. Rathbone, Mary Gagliardi, Harlan E. Rathbun, Marilyn Rathbone Greene, Robert Rathbone, Jayne Rezin, Clair Cornell, Terry Carnahan, Warren Rathbun, Beryl Beerenstrauch, Fred and Shirley Rathbun, Earl and Marge Rathbun, John and Alberta Rathbun, Esther Cassell, Ethyl Grady, Kenneth G. Rathbun, Rachel Laurgaard, Jeanne Whittington, Frank P. Rathbun, Bob and LaPrelle Weatherford, Gail B. Rathbun, Frank E. Rathbun, Russell and Norma Rathbun, Ken and Lois Allen, Beatrice St. Onge.

Nearly 100 descendants of John Kramer Rathbun gathered last July 6 for their annual family reunion in Georgia. Among them were several of our members, including Reba Reeves, Dixie Fountain and Anna Paulk. John Kramer Rathbun (1884-1940) was a son of Hallet<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He and his first wife, Laura Howell, had 10 children.

Descendants of Howard and Mildred Pearl (Weitzel) Rathbun held their annual family reunion in Carleton, Michigan. Among them were several of our members, including Ronald J. Rathbun, Gary and Cheryl Regentin, Troy J. Ziehm and Ronald and Kim Joannette. Howard (1890-1985) was the son of Valentine<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Horace<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

# Darrell Rathbun Wrote Hit Parody in 1950s

Darrell T. Rathbun, one of our members, was the composer of a Christmas parody, written in Korea nearly 40 years ago, which became a national hit.

Darrell, then an Army lieutenant-colonel, was serving at the time as public information officer for the Army's Tenth Corps in Korea. Shortly before Christmas (he is not sure of the year), he wrote some verses based on "The Night Before Christmas." His staff thought it was so good they sent it out as a press release, and it was picked up by the Associated Press.

In the next few days, it was published by nearly every daily newspaper in the United States. Kate Smith, Art Linkletter and others used it on national radio broadcasts, and Bing Crosby read it on the air before singing his traditional "White Christmas" that year. Crosby made a recording of the program and sent a copy to Darrell with a personal, handwritten letter.

The Stars and Stripes magazine did a center-fold story on Rathbun's poem, with appropriate artwork.

After his return to the United States, Darrell was contacted by a publishing firm which asked permission to include it in a book of "Poems That Will Live Forever." Darrell didn't expect much to come of it, but later on received a set of books, which included poems by "Shelley, Keats and Rathbun," Darrell now recalls with a chuckle.

A few years later, serving at Fort Meade, Maryland, Darrell read his poem in a local newspaper, giving credit to a young soldier who told his mother he had written it.

"She was so proud of him, I just couldn't ask the newspaper to print a correction," Darrell said.

Darrell, now retired, lives with his wife Leyta in Bayport, N.Y., and has been a long and enthusiastic member of our Association. He is the son of Lester<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> Corbet<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Tibbetts<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

His poem follows:

"'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the tent  
Was the odor of fuel oil (the stove pipe was bent).  
The shoe paks were hung by the oil stove with care;  
in the hope that they'd issue each man a new pair.  
The weary GIs were sacked-out in their beds,  
And visions of sugar-babes danced through their heads.

When up on the ridge-line there rose such a clatter  
(A Chinese machinegun had started to chatter).  
I rushed to my rifle, and threw back the bolt.  
The rest of my tent-mates awoke with a jolt.  
Outside we could hear our Platoon Sergeant Kelly.  
A hard little man with a little pot belly.  
'Come Yancey, come Clancey, come Connors and Watson,  
Up Miller, Up Shiller, up Baker and Dodson!'

We tumbled outside in a swirl of confusion.  
So cold that each man could have used a transfusion.  
'Get up on that hill-top and silence that Red.  
And don't you come back till you're sure that he's dead.'  
Then putting his thumb up in front of his nose,  
Sergeant Kelly took leave of us shivering Joes.

But we all heard him say in a voice soft and light,  
'Merry Christmas to all—may you live through the night!'

## Corrections

In our last issue, we showed a picture of the home of Nelson and Nancy (Rathbone) Colburn, which, we neglected to say, was located in Humbird, Wisc. All the children in the picture were not Colburns. Some were the children of Nancy's brother David Eugene Rathbone, who lived just across the road. The lady in the plaid dress is David's wife, Melda. At the extreme right is her son James Colburn Rathbone. Our thanks to Jeanne Whittington and Robert Rathbone.

Another picture, the home of Byron Rathbun, showed several persons, now identified as Byron, his wife Hannah, and their six children—Edna Rathbun Brooks, Lois Rathbun Gill, and Arthur, Stanley, Wilbur and Maurice ("Morris") Rathbun. Our thanks to Mae Whitemore.

In our October 1991 issue, page 60, under the family of Job Beebe Rathbun, his son Clarence married Mary Nail, not Nailand. His second wife was Frances (Neighbours) Beatty, who was born in Feb. 1842 and died March 11, 1910. Our thanks to Meryl Zimmerman and Beryl Beerenstrauch.

In our October 1991 Historian (Obituaries, page 63), we incorrectly listed the children of Carroll L. Rathbun as two daughters—Kim and Joy. It should have said a daughter, Kim, and a son, Jay. Our thanks to his sister, Esther Cassell.

Also in the October obituaries, we suggested that Charles Alden Rathbun was the probable great-grandson of Lysander<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Joel<sup>5</sup> Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Rob Rathbun reports that this is correct. He was the son of George Rathbun, and grandson of Lysander's son Morris.



# Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

## 365. BENJAMIN WALKER<sup>6</sup>

**RATHBUN** (Benjamin<sup>5</sup> William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Jan. 27, 1818, in Howard, Steuben County, N.Y. He moved with his parents as a young man to Ogle County, Ill., and was married on June 12, 1842, at Aurora, Ill., to Mary King, born Oct. 13, 1821, parentage unknown. He died in Ogle County on Feb. 17, 1859, leaving his widow with five young children. She was living as late as 1900 in Decatur County, Kansas, but her death date is not known.

### CHILDREN

MARY A., born March 6, 1844; married John Cross about 1860.

JANE, born Jan. 13, 1847; married Benjamin Taylor.

PATRICK HENRY, born March 1, 1851; married Mary (McKenzie) Hamper.

ELLEN E., born March 24, 1854; alive, unmarried, in 1900.

BENJAMIN, born Sept. 22, 1856; married Nancy Callie Hamper.

## 366. WILLIAM HARRIS<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN

(Benjamin<sup>5</sup> William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born July 18, 1826, in Howard Steuben County, N.Y., and moved with his parents as a young boy to Ogle County, Illinois. He was married May 2, 1859, in DeKalb County, Ill., to Sarah F. Hannah (or Hanners), born June 8, 1841, parentage unknown. He went to California in the spring of 1850, during the great Gold Rush of that time. He returned to Illinois in 1858, married Sarah, and bought a 130-acre farm in Flagg Township, Ogle County, later adding another 193 acres. Sarah died March 28, 1862, and he was married again on Dec. 29, 1864, to Maria Smith, born Oct. 5, 1834, parentage unknown. In 1875, they moved to Rochelle, Ill., and a few years later to Mount Morris, where he operated a livery stable. He died Sept. 28, 1888, at Mount Morris. Maria died there March 1, 1900.

### CHILDREN

By Sarah

IDA MAY, born Sept. 6, 1860; married Daniel Horton.

By Maria

WILLIAM HARRIS, born March 6, 1866; married Emma Shaw.

## 367. DAVID W.<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN

(Benjamin<sup>5</sup> William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born June 2, 1833, in Howard, Steuben County, N.Y., and moved with his parents as a baby to Ogle County, Ill. He was married about 1859 to Charlotte \_\_\_\_\_, born about 1840, surname and parentage unknown. They moved by 1870 to Guthrie County, Iowa; by 1880 to Clay County, Texas, and early in 1888 to Silver City, New Mexico. He was a rancher in Grant County, N.M., for more than 30 years, and died there June 27, 1921, just 18 days after his 88th birthday. His wife died some time prior to 1900.

### CHILDREN

WILLIAM H., born in March 1863; died unmarried, date unknown.

ELDORA, born in July 1865; died unmarried, date unknown.

CHARLES, born in Jan. 1867; died unmarried, date unknown.

SARAH, born about 1868; married William Cathurn.

## 368. CORNELIUS<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN

(Cornelius<sup>5</sup> William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 14, 1823, probably in Canada, and moved with his parents as a boy to Ionia County, Mich. He was married there on Dec. 19, 1848, to Jean H. Wier, born about 1831, parentage unknown. They moved in the early 1880s to Orange County, Calif., where he died in March 1889, and Jean on Feb. 4, 1896.

### CHILDREN

GRACE H., born Nov. 12, 1849; married Jerome W. Sprague on June 1, 1870.

CLARISSA, born Sept. 31, 1851; probably died young.

CORNELIUS RANSOM, born April 14, 1855; married Minnie Belle Stebbins.

GUY H., born Nov. 6, 1864; died May 18, 1928, in Los Angeles; no known marriage.

## 369. RANSOM<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN

(Cornelius<sup>5</sup> William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born March 5, 1836, in Ontario, Canada, and married there on Dec. 30, 1857, Sarah Olive Richmond, born April 3, 1836, daughter of Benjamin and Margaret Richmond. They moved to Ionia County, Michigan, shortly after their marriage, and Sarah died there Jan. 13, 1893. He may have had a second wife named Mary, and apparently died by 1900. Mary, born in March 1848, was living in Ionia County as late as 1910.

### CHILDREN

LORENZO DOW, born Oct. 23, 1858; married Grace Meyers.

ELVINA A, born May 23, 1860; married William Barnes on Dec. 19, 1883.

EDWIN R., born June 8, 1863; married Mary Stebbins.

GUY W., born April 13, 1867; died by 1892.

ANOTHER CHILD, name unknown; died young.

(This concludes the sixth-generation descendants of Joseph Rathbun, the fourth son of John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun. We now begin with the descendants of Samuel Rathbun, the fifth and last son).

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

**370. DANIEL<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>5-4</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Sept. 23, 1797, in Bloomfield, Ontario County, N.Y., and was married there Sept. 23, 1819, to Olive Bascom, born April 12, 1801, daughter of Zeri and Mabel (Murray) Bascom. They moved to Ogden, Genesee County, N.Y., soon after their marriage, and then about 1824 to Pittsfield, Lorain County, Ohio. He died there July 23, 1834, two months before his 37th birthday. Olive was married on June 19, 1836, to Elisha Pierce, and moved to Eaton County, Mich., where she died April 15, 1848.

## CHILDREN

HORACE D., born about 1824, alive in 1850; no further data.

EMELINE M., born about 1826; married Orsemus Wilder on Aug. 20, 1850.

ZERI BASCOM, born in 1828; married (1) Julia \_\_\_\_\_, and possibly (2) Jane Allen on March 21, 1874, in LaPorte County, Indiana. No further data.

**371. GEORGE<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>5-4</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1802 in Bloomfield, Ontario County, N.Y., and moved with his parents as a young man to Pittsfield, Ohio, where he was married on April 21, 1825, to Sally Ann Wait, born about 1805, possibly the daughter of Thomas Wait, another early settler of Pittsfield. George was appointed a local judge in Dec. 1831, and elected a township trustee and fence viewer in 1832. He died about 1835, leaving his widow with three small children. She was married again on Feb. 27, 1836, to David Barnes, and moved to Boone County, Ill.

## CHILDREN

HULDAH JANE, born about 1826; possibly the Jane Rathbun who married John H. Evans Feb. 10, 1854, in Tazewell County, Ill.

LUCRETIA, born about 1818; married James (or John) Mead on June 17, 1850, in Boone County.

ELIZABETH, born about 1834; alive in 1852; no further data.

**372. SAMUEL LORD<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>5-4</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1804 in Bloomfield, N.Y., and moved with his parents as a young man to Pittsfield, Ohio. He was married about 1829 to Louisa Roberts, born in October 1805, parentage unknown. They moved about 1843 to Alaiedon Township, Ingham County, Michigan, where he died in 1861. Louisa died there in 1905.

## CHILDREN

ELLEN, born Jan. 15, 1831; married Benjamin Guile on August 31, 1848.

SARAH, born about 1833; died in 1849.

ORVILLE S., born March 24, 1836; married Floretta D. Bennett.

HENRY L., born in August 1838; married Priscilla Bradman.

ALICE O., born about 1840; married Orin J. Lewis on March 6, 1859.

ALBERT, born in 1843; died in 1844.

**373. WILLIAM BUTLER<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>5-4</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1816 in Parma, N.Y., and moved as a young man to Pittsfield, Ohio. He was married there on Sept. 24, 1840, to Abigail Dibble, born about 1818, parentage unknown. They moved in the 1850s to Jackson, Michigan, and operated several taverns in that area. In 1867, he bought a farm at Rives, near Jackson, where they lived the rest of their lives. Abigail died about 1895, and he died March 26, 1896.

## CHILDREN

ADELIA, born about 1843; died in 1863, unmarried.

LUCY BUTLER (adopted), born about 1862; married Charles F. Howell on Nov. 24, 1880.

**374. JAMES<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Asa<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born March 8, 1787, at Lisbon, Conn. He moved as a young man to Niagara County, N.Y., where he was a militia ensign in 1818 and lieutenant in 1821. He was married about 1821 to Sarah A. (Harris?) and settled in Collins, Erie County, N.Y. About 1837, they moved to White Oak, Ingham County, Mich.

They were both listed there in the 1850 Federal Census, but nothing more is known of them.

## CHILDREN

?CLARISSA, born about 1822; married Gilbert Smith in 1853.

PRISCILLA, born about 1831; alive in 1850; no further date.

OLIVER J., born about 1835; died Feb. 10, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tenn., while serving in the Union Army with the 25th Wisconsin Infantry.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

**375. CHESTER<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Asa<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 10, 1790, at Lisbon, Conn. He was married Sept. 8, 1822, to Mary Perrigo, born July 29, 1801, daughter of George and Ann (Tubbs) Perrigo. They moved to Sprague, Conn., where Mary died Nov. 27, 1834, and he died March 13, 1844.

## CHILDREN

RACHEL WOOD, born April 2, 1823; died Feb. 3, 1887, unmarried.

DUANE ROSE, born Feb. 22, 1825; married Catherine Post.

ANGELINE BATTY, born March 7, 1827; married Elbridge Sadler on Oct. 27, 1853.

ELIZABETH BURNHAM, born Jan. 4, 1829; married (1) Sidney Benjamin on Nov. 6, 1848, and (2) Whitson Colyer.

GEORGE PERRIGO, born Jan. 22, 1831; married Lydia Stanton.

**376. THOMAS<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Asa<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 24, 1791, at Lisbon, Conn. He moved as a young man to Nunda, N.Y., and was married, probably there, to Sophronia Page, born about 1801, parentage unknown. Sophronia died April 23, 1864, and he died May 12, 1867.

## CHILDREN

JAMES L., born Oct. 2, 1823; married Minerva E. Rawson.

THOMAS E., born Aug. 11, 1826; married (1) Rosella White, and (2) Harriet A. Perkins.

HIRAM, born about 1829; married Victoria Clay about 1850 and apparently died within a year or two of the marriage.

MARY LOUISE, born about 1833; married William Lindsay.

**377. JOHN<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Asa<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Aug. 21, 1792, at Lisbon, Conn. He served in the Conn. militia during the War of 1812. He was married, probably at Lisbon, on April 16, 1816, to Sarah Potter, born about 1793, parentage unknown. They lived in Lisbon for about 25 years, then moved to Danielson, Conn. Rathbun, who was a blacksmith, died at Killingley, Conn., on June 11, 1872, and Sarah died Dec. 7, 1878, at Putnam, Conn.

#### CHILDREN

LYDIA MARIA, born Feb. 2, 1817; died Oct. 22, 1831.

OLIVE FITCH, born Jan. 28, 1819; married William Chamberlain on Oct. 9, 1842.

EBENEZER POTTER, born Oct. 15, 1825; married Lora Parkhurst.

PHOEBE PAINE, born March 16, 1828; no further information.

DANIEL KIMBALL, born July 5, 1830; married Helen E. Bemis.

**378. CYRUS<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Asa<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 30, 1796, in Lisbon, Conn. He was not covered in Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy and little is known of him. He apparently moved as a young man to Oneida County, N.Y., where he was living in 1830. In 1833, he and Polly Rathbun, probably his first wife, were among the signers of a temperance pledge in Marshall, Oneida County, and he was still living there in 1840. By 1850, he was a wheelwright in Lawrence, Van Buren County, Michigan, with a wife, Olive, age 47, and a daughter (?) Emily J., aged 5. In nearby Kalamazoo was a Polly Rathbun, aged 45, presumably his first wife. They were possibly divorced. Polly Rathbun was married on Dec. 22, 1857, to Thomas C. Camp in Lawrence, she aged 54 and he 66. The

1860 census shows Thomas and Polly Camp in Lawrence, with Emily J. Rathbun, aged 15. Cyrus was probably dead by that time. Nothing more has been learned of Polly.

#### CHILDREN

By Olive?

?DORCAS, born about 1827; married (1) James Bierce Sept. 26, 1846, and (2) Russell Chubbuck on Feb. 14, 1865. She lived in the Kalamazoo area, and died in 1888 in Van Buren County.

By Polly?

EMILY J., born about 1845; possibly died in 1870; no known marriage.

**379. GEORGE<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Asa<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Oct. 3, 1797, in Lisbon, Conn. He apparently moved with his brother Cyrus to Marshall, N.Y., where he was living in 1850 with their sister Lucinda Justin. He died there early in 1857, leaving most of his estate to his niece Phoebe Justin. There is no record of his ever having married.

**380. ASA<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Asa<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born March 7, 1800, in Lisbon, Conn. He was married in Woodstock, Conn., on March 7, 1822, to Clarissa Huntington, born in September 1799, daughter of Shubael and Patience (Thatcher) Huntington. They lived in Woodstock, where Clarissa died March 28, 1832, four days after childbirth. He was married the following October 16 to Sarah Ann Perrigo, born Nov. 16, 1799, daughter of George and Anna (Tubbs) Perrigo. Asa died Sept. 3, 1849, and Sarah died about 1880 (according to Cooley). Sarah possibly had an earlier marriage, and a daughter, Sarah, born about 1821. This Sarah was married on Sept. 13, 1840, to Nathan Bartlett. Asa's widow Sarah was living with the Bartletts in 1850.

#### CHILDREN

All By Clarissa

AMOS CARROLL, born Dec. 29, 1822; married Phoebe Ann Smith.

JAMES AVERY, born May 9, 1824; died unmarried in May 1854.

ELIZABETH RUTH, born Feb. 24, 1826; died in 1830.

SHUBAEL H., born March 5, 1828; died unmarried in April 1842.

LEWIS T., born March 24, 1830; married (1) Susan Smith, and (2) Mary Tucker.

CLARISSA ANN, born March 24, 1832; married Simeon M. Plank about 1851.

## New Data

Caroline Amsbury, wife of James<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Joshua<sup>5</sup> Amos<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), was the daughter of Stephen and Rhoda Amsbury of Penn Yann, N.Y. Our thanks to Helen Heyart who located Stephen Amsbury's will in Yates County, N.Y.

Benjamin Rathbun (Joseph<sup>5</sup> Samuel<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), married as his third wife, Celia (Beal) Gray on May 11, 1865, in Springfield, Mass. He was 78, she was 48. Benjamin was listed in our July 1990 Historian on pages 42-43. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Mary Rathbun, daughter of Samuel<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), married Drake Seymour of Greenwich, Conn., by 1782, based on an early Block Island land record. Her sister Deliverance married Edward Palmer. They were listed in our Historian of Oct. 1982, page 62.

In our Oct. 1981 Historian, page 61, we reported that Sarah Mott, wife of William<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was possibly the daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (Tosh) Mott. Further research in Block Island records has shown that she was, instead, the daughter of John and Mercy (Tosh) Mott, and was born Jan. 19, 1688.

Mary E. Rathbun, daughter of Paul<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Elias<sup>5</sup> Joseph<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), was married Oct. 17, 1863, at Webster, Mass., to John Blanbury. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun, who is researching early Massachusetts marriage records.



# Obituaries

**DIED**—Oct. 29, 1991, at Fresno, Calif., Keith Marwin Rathbone, aged 62, a long-time, active member of our Association. An entomologist, he was the son 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>). He is survived by his wife, Joyce; a brother, Kenneth Gordon Rathbone, also a member of our Association; a niece, and a nephew.

**DIED**—Nov. 29, 1991, in a California highway tragedy, Willard Glasgo Rathbun, 68; his wife, Jean, 69, and his sister, Helen (Rathbun) Miltimore, 70, all members of our Association. (See separate story). Willard and Helen were the children of Willard<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>. Willard and Jean left four children—John and Joseph Rathbun, Shirley Schweinberg and Emily Bailey. Helen left one daughter, Ann Miltimore. Willard and Helen also left one sister, Joyce Marlow.

**DIED**—Oct. 10, 1991, Wilfred C. Rathbun, 82, at Denver, Colorado. A member of our Association, he was the son of Lester<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>8</sup> Joseph<sup>7</sup> Valentine<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Dorothy Rathbun; four sons, Richard, David, Douglas and Robert; four grandchildren; a brother, Frank, also a member of our Association, and a sister, Juanita Jouvette.

**DIED**—Nov. 7, 1991, at Cheyenne, Wyoming, Wilma Isis (Rathburn) Southworth, aged 97. She was the daughter of Oliver<sup>8</sup> Rathburn (Benjamin<sup>7</sup> Alvin<sup>6</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is survived by a sister, Velva Gaudern.

**DIED**—Nov. 11, 1991, at Gering, Nebraska, Helen Louise (Rathburn) Hill, aged 83, four days after the death of her sister, Wilma (see preceding obituary). She is survived by a son, Stanley A. Hill, and three grandchildren, as well as her sister Velva Gaudern.

**DIED**—Nov. 7, 1991, at Lyme, Conn., Caroline (Littlefield) Stelzner, age 64, a member of our Association. She was the daughter of Lester and Esther (Thomas) Littlefield, and had several lines of descent from the early Rathbuns on Block Island. She is survived by her husband, William Stelzner, and a son, Daniel, who has become a member of the Association.

**DIED**—Oct. 14, 1991, at Westerly, R.I., Harold Leslie Rathbone, in his 100th year. (See picture in our Historian of Jan. 1991). He was the son of William<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Henry<sup>7</sup> Martin<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5-4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Survivors include his daughter, Marilyn Green, a member of our Association; three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He served with the Army in France during World War I.

**DIED**—May 3, 1991, Marguerite J. Rathbun, 86, of Springfield, N.Y. She was the widow of Dean O. Rathbun, son of George<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Levant<sup>7</sup> Williams<sup>6-5</sup> Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), who died in 1983. She is survived by a son, Richard Rathbun; two daughters, Ellen Delockis and Jane Herring; five grandchildren, and two great-grandsons.

**DIED**—Dec. 11, 1991, Dorothy C. Rathbun, 74, at Madison, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of Raymond<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Ezra<sup>8</sup> Chauncey<sup>7</sup> Isaiah<sup>6</sup> Ashley<sup>5</sup> Isaiah<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). She is survived by two sisters, Geraldine Wernicke and Necia Tiller, and a niece.

**DIED**—Sept. 7, 1991, at Buffalo, N.Y., Eleanor Blackstone Rathbone, aged 59. She was the daughter of John<sup>9</sup> Rathbone (Walter<sup>8-7</sup> Samuel<sup>6-5</sup> Elijah<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). A retired school teacher, she is survived by her mother, Carolyn Rathbone, and a sister, Mary Guy.

**DIED**—Nov. 16, 1991, at Providence, R.I., Janice V. Rathbone, 65, of Charlestown, R.I. She was the daughter of Herbert<sup>9</sup> Rathbone (William<sup>8</sup> Henry<sup>7</sup> Martin<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5-4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). An assistant vice-president of the Washington Trust Company, she is survived by a sister, Eleanor Grinnell, and a brother, Herbert Rathbone Jr.

**DIED**—October 13, 1991, at Dunedin, Fla., Harold William Rathbun, aged 81, a member of our Association. He was the son of Robert<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Theodore<sup>7</sup> Alden<sup>6</sup> Joel<sup>5</sup> Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He is survived by his wife, Margaret; a son, Robert Rathbun; two daughters, Carol Morris and Joanne Rathbun; several grandchildren, and a brother, Howard Rathbun.

**DIED**—Nov. 7, 1991, at Bennington, Vt., Violet M. Rathbun, aged 87. She was the widow of Earle Stanley Rathbun Jr., son of Norman<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Orlo<sup>7</sup> Norman<sup>6</sup> John<sup>5</sup> Roger<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), who died in 1982. Survivors include two sons, Earle S. Jr. and Donald A. Rathbun, a member of our Association; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; three sisters, and a brother.

**DIED**—Jan. 29, 1991, Evelyn "Minnie" Baxton, 72, at Apple Valley, Minn. She was a descendant of Richard Thomas Cole and Harriet<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Her husband, Glen Baxton, died in 1948, leaving her a widow at 30 with six children. Survivors include all her children, including Eugene Baxton, who with his wife Shirley are members of our Association.

**DIED**—Dec. 1, 1991, at Cooperstown, N.Y., Edward J. Snow, Sr., aged 73. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, the former widow of Allen<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Arthur<sup>9</sup> Duncan<sup>8</sup> Levant<sup>7</sup> Williams<sup>6-5</sup> Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), several children and grandchildren, and six Rathbun step-children—Allan, William, Arthur and Dean Rathbun; Betsey Tanner, and Lynn Sellers.

**DIED**—Sept. 6, 1991, at Dublin, Georgia, Max L. Stone, 72, husband of Maude (Rathburn) Stone, who is the daughter of Conrad<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Hallet<sup>7</sup> Thomas<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Maxie; a daughter, Jackie Boyer; four brothers and seven sisters.

# Births

**BORN**—July 26, 1991, Ellen Donnelly Rathbun, daughter of David and Carol Rathbun, and granddaughter of Daniel and Betty Rathbun. All are members of our Association. Daniel is the son of George<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>7</sup> Greene<sup>6-5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**BORN**—Dec. 22, 1991, Louie David John Curtis, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Brian Curtis and grandson of our members Louie and Juanita (Rathbun) Curtis. Juanita is the daughter of Amory<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>9-8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Alfred<sup>6</sup> Wait<sup>5-4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**BORN**—Oct. 6, 1991, Naseem Rachdi, son of Ahmed and Gail Anne (Rathbun) Rachdi, and grandson of our members John and Alberta Rathbun. John is the son of Ernest<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Grenville<sup>7</sup> Alfred<sup>6</sup> Epaphroditus<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**BORN**—Nov. 27, 1991, Scott Aaron Mueller, son of Philip and Janet Mueller and granddaughter of our members Harold Mueller and Dorothy<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Curtis<sup>9</sup> Henry<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**BORN**—Jan. 5, 1991, Ashley Ann Bundy, daughter of Vern Eugene and Donna Irene (Rathbun) Bundy, and granddaughter of our member Marvin T. Rathbun. Marvin is the son of the late Thomas Fred<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

The "phonys" are still at it. Several members have sent me copies of letters received from "Carol L. Rathbun" of Bath, Ohio, offering "The World Book of Rathbuns" for "only \$27.50." There probably is no such person as Carol L. Rathbun, which is only a "front" name to impress would-be buyers. Such organizations, using a variety of phoney names, have been offering similar books for several years. The books are basically a list of Rathbuns taken from telephone directories. Don't waste your money on it!

# People

**HELEN M. RATHBUN** of Cranston, R.I., became a great-grandmother for the first time on Nov. 25, 1991, with the birth of Kathryn May Oskar, daughter of Paul and Suzanne (Lamoureux) Oskar, and granddaughter of Helen's daughter Ella-May (Rathbun) Lamoureux. Helen is the widow of Edward Bryon<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>9</sup> Raymond<sup>8</sup> Amy<sup>7</sup> Olney<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5</sup> Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), and the daughter of Ernest<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> Seneca<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**ROBERT RATHBUN** has been named one of two new radio announcers for the Detroit Tigers baseball team. Rathbun, 36, a native of Wakefield, R.I., has been a backup announcer for the Baltimore Orioles, and earlier was a sports announcer in Virginia. He has a wife Eleanor, but we have been unable to verify his ancestry. Can anyone help?

**KIMBERLY RATHBUN** of Omaha, Neb., graduated last May from Chadron State College and has gone to work in a law firm's accounting department. She is the daughter of our members, Zella and William<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>9</sup> John<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**DEANNE GAYLE RATHBUN** and Timothy Clark Arensberg were married Nov. 30, 1991, in Kansas City, Mo. She is the daughter of our members Mr. and Mrs. Don A. Rathbun, niece of Roy Rathbun, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>8</sup> Elon<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**VICTOR AND RUTH STREETER** report three births in their family. Jonathan Michael Hardt was born Oct. 11, 1991, to Freddie and Michelle Hart, son of Victor's niece Marilyn Colgrove. Another of Marilyn's children, Roxy, had a son Bret Michael Colgrove, on Oct. 13, 1991. Ruth's son Curtis Gillespie and his wife Kathy had a son, Luke Mathew Gillespie, born Oct. 23, 1991. Victor is descended from Harriet<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**ROSS HEILMAN** of Hutchinson, Kansas, was presented in November with a long-overdue award. Heilman, 75, received the Boy Scout Honor Medal for saving the life of a young man who nearly drowned in a deserted gravel pit in 1932, nearly 60 years ago! He was denied the award then because his local scout troop could not afford to pay its national dues. It was during the height of the Great Depression. Ross is the brother of our member Lorraine Barrick, and grandson of Joseph Whitley and Etta Jane<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Dwight<sup>7</sup> Gamaliel<sup>6</sup> Walter<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**CRYSTAL BROOK HUNTER** aged 11, was crowned Miss Georgia USA Sunburst Preliminary Beauty Queen last September. She was also chosen as "most photogenic" of the contestants, and will go to Atlanta in May for the state finals. That same month, Crystal was second runner-up in the Irwin County Sweet Potato Princess pageant. She is the great-granddaughter of our member Dixie Fountain, of Fitzgerald, Georgia, and a descendant of Hallet<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**MILDRED RATHBUN** of Cranston, R.I., attended the 125th annual meeting of the National Grange in Burlington, Vermont in Sept. 1991. She has been a Granger nearly 60 years, and has attended nearly every national meeting since 1966. Mildred is the daughter of Frederick<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> George<sup>7</sup> Joshua<sup>6</sup> Acors<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

## What's A Yankee?

To a foreigner, a Yankee is an American. To a Southerner, a Yankee is a Northerner. To a Northerner, a Yankee lives in New England. To a New Englander, a Yankee is someone from Vermont. To a Vermonter, a Yankee is someone who still uses an outhouse. (Kenneth O'Neill, quoted in the Connecticut Nutmegger, Sept., 1991)

# People

**COL. JAMES P. RATHBUN** of Beaufort, S.C., was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Friends of the Coast for his work in helping to protect the state's seacoast. Rathbun was especially cited for his 20-year-fight against the industrialization of Victoria Bluff on the Colleton River. He is the son of Walter<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Walter<sup>7</sup> Samuel<sup>6-5</sup> Elijah<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**LAVERNE AND MARJORIE RATHBUN**, charter members of our Association, had an early celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on June 30, 1991, with a party hosted by their children at their home in Bluemont, Va. In addition to their three children and several grandchildren, guests included Association members Ellen and Elwin Kenyon of Rhode Island, and Association President Frank Rathbun and his wife Hazel. Their actual anniversary was on Sept. 10. Their three children are Melinda Connell, a member of our Association; Bruce Rathbun, and John Rathbun. Laverne is the son of Emmett<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> Vortimer<sup>7</sup> Lucius<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**WILLIAM AND EULA BARGER** of Topeka, Kansas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, on Nov. 10, 1991, at a party hosted by her brothers and sisters. Eula is the daughter of Vera Rathbun and the late William Harley<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Daniel<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Among the 179 guests were Vera Rathbun and her other children—William H. Rathbun Jr., Lois Lorence and her husband Jack; Patti Garret and her husband Bill; Donna Jo Bender and her husband Gene, and Bruce Rathbun and his wife Suzue. Most are members of our Association.

**RAY RATHBUN** and Carin Tang were married May 24, 1991, in Reno, Nevada—his second marriage, her first. Ray is the son of our members Suzue and Bruce<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Harley<sup>9</sup> Daniel<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Daniel<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

## Our New Members

David Bohrnstedt  
New London, Wisc.

George Bohrnstedt  
Menlo Park, Calif.

Edward Charnley  
Greer, S.C.

Charles Dierikx  
El Paso, Texas

Robert Fitzsimmons  
San Diego, Calif.

Douglas Henne  
Lake Oswego, Ore.

Ronald and Kim Joannette  
Beulah, Mich.

Forrest Lee Rathburn  
Olympia, Wash.

Father James I. Rathbun  
Fiji Islands

Jennifer Rathbun  
Denver, Colo.

Jesse E. Rathbun  
Virginia Beach, VA.

Gary and Cheryl Regentin  
Southfield, Mich.

Margaret Robb  
Columbus, Ohio

Daniel Stelzner  
Rumford, R.I.

Donald D. White  
Washington, D.C.

Troy J. Ziehm  
Ubley, Mich.

**WAYNE AND MILDRED RATHBUN** of Richland, Washington, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 15, 1991. Their four children hosted a party for them. Wayne 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>).

**GLENN AND LOUISE RATHBUN** of Boise, Idaho, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 29, 1991. Glenn is the son of Ernest<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Benjamin<sup>7-6-5</sup> William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**MAURICE AND MELVA GREGORY** of Boise, Idaho, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 11, 1991. Melva is the daughter 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>).

**CHERYL ANN BOWEN** and Jeffrey Di-day were married Oct. 26, 1991, at Silver Spring, Md. Cheryl is the daughter of our members, John and Mary Ann Bowen. John is a descendant of David Abel and Elizabeth<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**RITA MAY RATHBUN**, a member of our Association, has taken a position with

the Federal government in El Paso, Texas, after graduating last May with a degree in Business Administration at the University of Texas. She is the daughter of our member Jerrold<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Fred<sup>8</sup> Erastus<sup>7</sup> Edwin<sup>6</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), of Lewiston, Idaho.

**WILLIAM LEROY RATHBUN** of Alliance, Neb., a charter member of our Association, retired May 31, 1991, after 44 years of service with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, and its successor Burlington Northern. Leroy is the son of Charles<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**HELEN RUTH LANDENBERGER** of Rapid City, S.D., had a busy year. The widow of Ruben Landenberger, she was married on Oct. 26, to Robert Burr. On June 25, she became a grandmother for the first time with the birth of Hailey Jo Woodcox, daughter of John and Kathy Lynn Woodcox, and on July 9, her daughter Lesa Dawn was married to John Crow. Helen is descended from Reason Tippie and Sophia<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Gideon<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).