

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
FAMILY
HISTORIAN



Eliza Rathbone
(1791-1853)

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

Letter from the Editor

With this issue, we complete our twelfth year of publication! It hardly seems possible. And that also means, of course, that it is again time to renew your membership.

We will keep the dues for 1993 at \$18, and let me again issue my annual request—please send in your checks promptly. It saves me so much work and confusion.

The deadline will be December 15. After that date, if we have not received your check, your name will be taken off our mailing list, and we will have to charge an additional \$5—or \$23—if your check arrives after that date.

Our membership stands at 558 as we come to the end of 1992, our lowest figure in several years. I am sure the sad state of the economy is partly to blame.

Hazel and I will be going to Williamsburg, Virginia, late in October to make preliminary arrangements for our bi-annual reunion there next year. To take advantage of off-season rates, and also Virginia's beautiful fall weather, we are planning to schedule the reunion in September.

This will be the first reunion we have had in an area without family connections, but we will try to make it historically interesting. Colonial Williamsburg itself is a marvelous way to step back into the Eighteenth Century, and nearby is Jamestown,

site of the first English settlement in America back in the Seventeenth Century.

We will have more details in the January 1993 Historian, and registration forms will probably be sent out with the April Historian.

DUES ARE DUE!

A membership renewal form for 1993 is enclosed with this issue of the Historian. Dues are \$18, but we must charge an extra \$5, or \$23 total, if you do not renew by the deadline of December 15. It will save you \$5 if you renew on time, so send your check now. If you put it aside, you may forget.

In this issue, I have written the final chapter in the life of my father, Frank Hugo Rathbun Sr. It was an interesting challenge to write that story, and it brought back many memories.

One member called me to ask that I do a similar story on her father. When I asked her what she could tell me about him, it was only that he was a wonderful man, a good Christian and a fine father. That just isn't enough.

If you would like to have a full-length story about your father or mother (or grandfather, grandmother, uncle, aunt, cousin, whatever), I would have to have a great deal of information—details about his or her private life, letters, diaries, newspaper clippings, problems, tragedies and triumphs—all the things that help "flesh out" the simple statistics of birth, marriage and death. Without such details, a biography can be squeezed into a paragraph or two, as I do in our genealogical section. It is also helpful to have several good clear pictures.

In this issue also, we launch the seventh generation of our family in America, starting as always with the oldest son. And following our custom, we are recording only sons, and not daughters. We made this decision early on, very reluctantly, in the interest of time and space. We are, how-

ever, compiling data on daughters and their families in our files, and perhaps some day, someone, will be able to compile a complete genealogy of the family—males and females!

Arnold and Carol Rathbun of Cranston, R.I., have created a permanent memorial to their son Wilbur Charles Rathbun, who died in 1985 at the age of 22.

They financed a retreat house on 300 acres of land in Exeter, R.I., and named it the Wilbur C. Rathbun Memorial Retreat House.

The center was opened in 1988 and today serves as a site for church retreats, Elderhostel programs and workshops sponsored by social organizations.

The idea of the center was to ensure that their son will always be remembered "for his warm and friendly personality, his love of life and his desire to reach out to others."

Arnold is the son of Ernest⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

Since this will be my last letter of 1992, let me take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a happy holiday season, and a wonderful New Year. And let us hope that our beloved nation will see better times in 1993 than in 1992.



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All issues, 1981-1991.....\$170
All issues, 1981.....\$ 22
All issues, 1982.....\$ 20

All issues for any single year from 1983 to 1991 are available at \$15 per year. Single copies of any issue are \$4 each, but some early issues are available only in xerox unless ordering a complete back set.

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Editor & Publisher

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'Pouch' Rathbone Elopes During 1894 Baseball Game

This is the true story of a Rathbone born more than a century ago who used a baseball game as his cover to elope with the girl he loved, right under the very noses of her disapproving parents. The innovative suitor was Van Allen Doremus Rathbone, whose nickname was "Pouch." The strange love affair took place in West Virginia during the "Gay '90s."

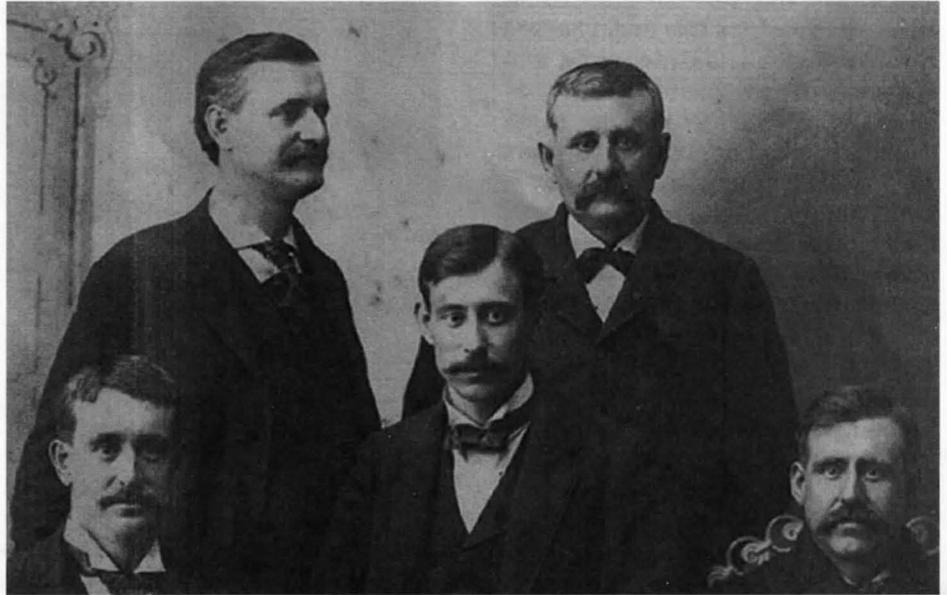
Van Allen Doremus Rathbone was born August 31, 1871, in Northport, Maine, and raised in or near Parkersburg, West Virginia, the son of Samuel⁶ Rathbone (William⁵ Wait⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). As a boy, he picked up a great love of baseball, and also the nickname "Pouch," although no one today seems to know how he got that name.

In 1894, Pouch was an infielder on his home-town team in Elizabeth, West Va. He was then 23, and another love had entered his life—Martha Elizabeth "Pink" Riddle, then 17 years old. No one seems to know either how she acquired her nickname.

She was the daughter of George and Elizabeth Riddle, prominent citizens in Elizabeth, who strongly disapproved of their daughter's interest in Pouch Rathbone. Their main objection seemed to be that he was a baseball player.

Pouch Rathbone followed the rules of the day, and asked the Riddles for permission to court their daughter. They absolutely refused. Pouch then took an alternative route—elopement. Four times, he and Pink tried to slip away to be married, but without success.

He even followed the traditional course of placing a ladder against the Riddle home, and tried to climb up to bring Miss Riddle down with him. Alas,



This early 1900s picture shows "Pouch" Rathbone, left rear, with four of his brothers. At right rear is John Atkinson Rathbone (1851-1935). In front, from left, are William Grant Rathbone (1865-1932); Castella Francis Rathbone (1867-1934), and Samuel Brown Rathbone (1860-1922).

the ladder broke, and Papa Riddle came storming out of the house with a shotgun!

The Riddles then bought a vicious bulldog to patrol the premises, and Pouch one night had an unpleasant encounter with the dog. He then realized that he would have to make other, more unorthodox plans.

Now it seems that the Riddles were great baseball fans, and never missed a home game. Oddly, they loved baseball, but didn't want a baseball player in the family.

On August 16, 1894, Elizabeth played host to a team from nearby Burning Springs, Elizabeth's traditional rival. The Riddles planned to attend the game, but they made sure that their daughter went with them. She would not be left alone.

Pouch and Pink laid their plans carefully. She and her parents dolled

themselves up and drove to the ball park in their carriage. They took their seats in the home-team stands. Little did Pink's parents know that a plot was underway which involved Pouch Rathbone, their daughter and several of her friends, and the entire Elizabeth baseball team.

It was an exciting game and the score was close as the seventh inning ended. Papa Riddle didn't even notice when Pouch Rathbone disappeared from the home-town bench. He smiled approvingly when Pink waved at a girl friend in another part of the stands, and then excused herself to "go over and see Martha."

The game went on, but the Elizabeth team began to deliberately slow things down. Pouch and Pink had a friend with a buggy waiting for

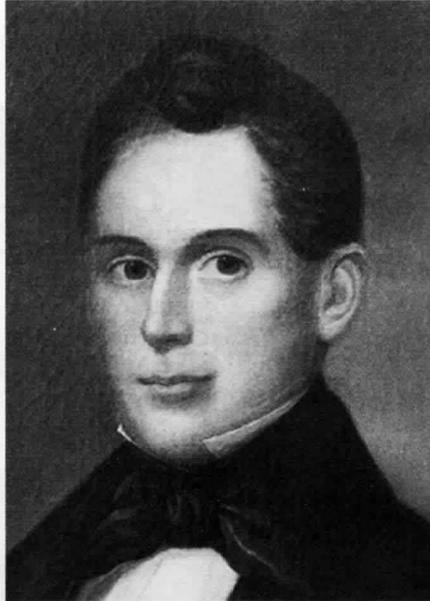
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'Merchant John' Rathbone Left Many Decendants

In our last issue, we covered the life of "Merchant John" Rathbone (1751-1843), who moved from Stonington, Conn., to New York City and amassed a fortune in varied business and investment operations. In this follow-up article, we give a brief outline of the lives and descendants of his three sons and eight daughters, in order of birth. All the daughters married and their descendants have been prominent in many walks of life.

1. CONTENT RATHBONE was born June 17, 1775, in Stonington, and was married there on April 1, 1792, as his second wife, to Robert Chesebrough (1766-1856). They moved in 1797 to New York City, where he entered the banking field and became the first president of the Fulton Bank of New York. In 1809, John Rathbone gave the Chesebroughs 2,000 acres of his land in Ohio, which they sold five years later for \$6,000—a sizeable fortune at that time. Among their children were Robert John Chesebrough (1798-1870), a Yale graduate who practiced law for a while, then became a prosperous dry-goods merchant. Another son, Henry Augustus Chesebrough, born in 1801, was a Yale-educated lawyer whose son, Robert, was the inventor of vaseline.

2. JOHN RATHBONE JR. was born July 12, 1777, in Stonington, and moved with his parents as a young man to New York City. (His portrait, painted about 1800, accompanies this article). He probably attended college, although no details are known, and then joined his father's business operations. In 1804, he became his father's partner, and by the 1820s, as his father reached his 70s, John Jr. took over the operation. He expanded the business and took an active part in political affairs. In 1823, he was elected to the New York State



This striking oil painting of John Rathbone Jr. was probably made when he was in his early twenties. It is his only likeness known to have survived.

Legislature. In 1825, he joined with John Jacob Astor and Eleazer Lord in raising \$800,000 to finance the first Ohio canal system. He was among the honored guests when ground-breaking ceremonies were held July 4 that year in Licking County. In 1832, he was one of the incorporators of the New York and Erie Railroad Company, one of the nation's earliest. He helped establish the New York Bank of Commerce and was closely associated with Nicholas Biddle, founder of the Second Bank of the United States, and became a member of its board of directors. In 1841, he was an honorary pallbearer at the funeral of President William Henry Harrison, who had died in office. The following year, at the height of his career, he suffered a stroke while on business at the state capitol in Albany. He died there August 1, 1842, at the age of 65, just seven months before the death of his father

at the age of 91. John Jr. never married and left an estate, reported at more than \$200,000, to his sisters and their children.

3. THOMAS WELLS RATHBONE was born Oct. 16, 1779, in Stonington and moved to New York with his parents. He attended Columbia College and was graduated in 1800. He was married on March 11, 1802, to Maria Hildreth Hawkins. He became an ensign in the State Militia in 1804 and was promoted to lieutenant the following year. That same year, his wife died at the age of 24, leaving him with a son aged two. Apparently overcome with grief, he left the boy with relatives and went to Ohio to help oversee some of his father's land investments there. He was a lay preacher and schoolteacher for a while in Licking County, but then moved south to Kentucky, where he became a French and Latin instructor at the Hardin Academy in Elizabethtown. In 1819 he married a widow, 13 years older than he, and in 1824 became head of the academy. He died in June or July 1826. His second wife, who became known as Grandma Rathbone, was the midwife who delivered Abraham Lincoln in 1809. (See our Historian of January 1988, page 12.) He had no children by her, but his son Edward, by his first wife, had a son John Rathbone who became a prominent New York City merchant in the mid 1800s.

4. EUNICE RATHBONE was born May 22, 1782, at Stonington, and was married to Hezekiah Goddard on Jan. 27, 1810, in New York City. Eunice's mother collapsed after the wedding ceremony when she went to embrace her daughter, and died an hour later. Their son George Willard Goddard was a Yale-educated lawyer who served in the Connecticut State Legislature and was later an alderman and municipal judge in New London,

5. SARAH RATHBONE, born Oct. 11, 1784, at Stonington, was the first of John Rathbone's daughters to be educated at the Moravian Academy in Bethlehem, Pa. On Dec. 26, 1808, she was married to Joshua Downer (1770-1835), who was a business partner of her uncle, Samuel Rathbone. Sarah and her husband moved to Ohio about 1820 to help manage her father's large land investments there. They lived at Zanesville, where she died on August 19, 1823, Downer died 12 years later at Newark.

6. CLARISSA HARLOW RATHBONE was born Nov. 19, 1787, in Stonington, and was also educated at the Moravian Academy. She was married on Jun 6, 1808, in New York City, to Theophilus Washington Smith (1784-1846). He had studied law with Aaron Burr and in the War of 1812 became a captain, and later adjutant general in the Army. (His picture appeared in our Historian of April 1987, with a story on the War of 1812. Her picture appears with this story). Theophilus and Clarissa moved in 1816 to Ohio to help oversee her father's large land holdings. They then went further west in 1817 to Illinois, traveling on flat boats and "prairie schooners." Hired help was impossible to find in that frontier area, and their

servants were slaves, hired from slave owners in Missouri. They had to be taken back to Missouri once a year for an overnight stay, or by Illinois law would have become free. Theophilus was an Illinois state senator for four years, then served on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1825 to 1842. He was an adjutant-general during the Black Hawk War of 1832. Clarissa died in Chicago on Nov. 6, 1844. Her husband died two years later on May 6, 1846. One of the Smith's nine children was Mary (1812-1883), who married Charles Stanbery, father of John Rathbone Stanbery, born in 1836, who was stung to death when a plow he was following ran into a nest of bees on his farm. John's daughter, Mary (1868-1958) married Miles T. Watts and was a prominent author in the early 1900s. She published 13 novels between 1908 and 1924, the most popular being "Nathan Burke" in 1918. She was also a remarkable woman in other ways. She taught herself to type, traveled all over the world, played chess by mail and collected antiques. She also "liked her martinis, dry if you please!" according to her great-niece, Mary Anne Cummins. Mrs. Cummins, a member of our association, provided much data on this branch of the family.

7. JAMES MANNING RATHBONE was born May 11, 1789, in Stonington, and accompanied his parents as a boy to New York. He went to sea as a young man, but little is known of his activities. He reportedly died about 1811 in the West Indies at the age of 22.

8. ELIZA RATHBONE was born Sept. 13, 1791, in New York City, and attended the Moravian Academy. A portrait of her, probably painted when she was about 16, appears on our front cover and with this story, as well as a picture of her in later years. She was married June 1, 1814, to Dr. Charles Henry Wetmore (1783-1868), an 1804 Yale graduate, who was an Army surgeon in the War of 1812. They moved to Franklin County, Ohio, in 1819 to settle on land given them by her father. She died in Columbus on Feb. 16, 1853. One of her 11 children, John Rathbone Wetmore, became a physician like his father.

9. JULIETTE RATHBONE was born Feb. 6, 1794, in New York City. In the fall of 1814 she and her sister Emma accompanied their father in his horse-drawn coach to Ohio and spent the winter there with family and friends.

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Clarissa (Rathbone) Smith
(1787-1844)



This charming drawing of Eliza Rathbone, which also appears on our front cover, was made when she was about 16 years old.



Portrait of Eliza (Rathbone) Wetmore later in life, reportedly copied after her death from a daguerrotype. Family tradition says it was not a good likeness.

Frank H. Rathbun Sr. Finds Peace in Second Marriage

This is the third and final article on the life of your editor's father, Frank Hugo Rathbun Sr. (1874-1946). In the earlier stories, we covered his youth, a tragic love affair, his career in the Navy, the death of his first son, his battle with alcoholism, the death of his first wife (my mother), and his valiant but unsuccessful efforts to raise me and my sister on his own. His string of bad luck ended in 1936 with his marriage to an old friend, Jessie E. Howland. They settled down on her farm in Sebewa Township, Ionia County, Michigan, and I joined them there in the early fall of 1936.

The farm had 90 acres, with a four-bedroom frame house, a huge barn, sheep shed, pigpens, chicken coop, corncribs and other outbuildings. For me, as a 12-year-old "city" boy, it was an amazing and eye-opening experience.

There were horses, cows, sheep, pigs and chickens; an outdoor toilet; a backyard pump for water, and kerosene lamps for lights. I arose at 6 a.m., helped my father with the morning milking, and then walked more than a mile to a one-room country school, with one teacher and about 20 students—three of us in the seventh grade.

It was a way of life little different from that my father had known as a boy 50 years earlier. But there was one big change for him. Automobiles were the means of transportation, and he had never owned or driven a car. My stepmother (whom I came to call Mom) had an old model (the make I have forgotten), and she taught him how to drive. He was so delighted that he bought a new car the following year—a 1937 Chevrolet.

My dad quickly adapted to his new way of life. At 62, he was too old to farm our 90 acres, so he leased out 40



Frank H. Rathbun Sr. (on ground with our dog Rags) and my stepmother, sister Peggy and myself, taken in the summer of 1940, about the time Peg came to live with us on the farm.

or 50 acres each year to neighboring farmers. He provided the land and the seed, and they did the work, to raise corn, wheat, oats or hay, and they split the profits or the yield.

At haying time in 1937, a hayrope snapped, and work came to a halt. The usual procedure was to have someone drive into town and buy a new rope, but Dad offered a quicker and cheaper remedy. Using a skill he had learned in the Navy, he spliced the broken ends of the rope together, and it was just as good as new. The haying continued, and the neighbors marveled. Word spread through the community, and soon farmers from miles around brought their broken ropes to my dad to be spliced.

Dad also moved smoothly into Sebewa's social life. He was friendly and outgoing, and became popular with his neighbors. In 1937, he was elected president of my school's Parent-Teacher Association, and that fall he was elected treasurer of the township school board on the Republican ticket. The following spring, the Republicans nominated him for justice of the peace, and he was easily elected, as Republican candidates usually were in Sebewa.

In 1940, the township supervisor died in office, and Dad was urged to run for the office. He thought it over, but declined. A major factor was driving. He was still a bit nervous, even on country roads, and the supervisor's

post would have meant frequent drives into Ionia, the country seat. He was not ready for that.

He developed a large vegetable garden near the house, and it became his pride and joy. He grew much of our food—potatoes, corn, beans, onions, cabbage, squash, peas, tomatoes, melons and Swiss chard. Some was stored in our cellar. Some was put up in cans by mom.

We had some 25 or 30 chickens, which gave us an ample supply of eggs for breakfast and baking, and also enough to sell to "town folks." The chickens also supplied frequent Sunday dinners of "chicken and dumplings."

In the spring of 1940, Dad heard about a newly developed chicken feed which was supposed to double egg production. He ordered a bag, and tried it out. The next morning happened to be April 1—April Fool's Day. I decided to surprise him. Early in the morning, I took all the previous day's eggs, and carefully placed them back in various nests in the henhouse.

That afternoon, when Dad collected the eggs, he raced into the house beaming. "Look," he shouted, "that new feed really has doubled the egg production."

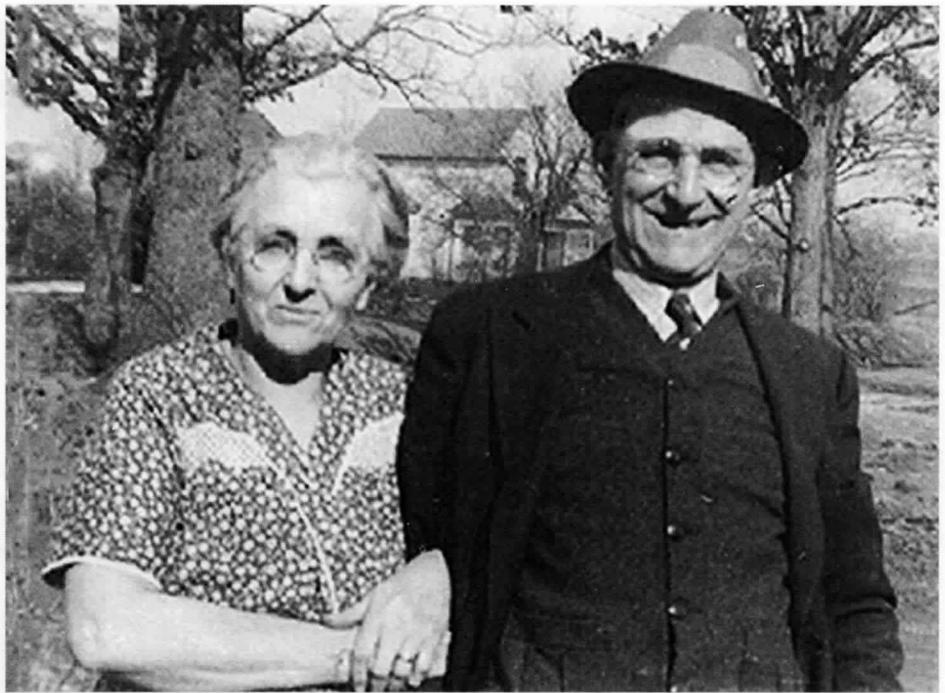
I looked at Mom, who was in on the joke, and we both burst out laughing. I shouted "April Fool." and poor Dad, after a few moments of confusion, then anger, finally saw humor and joined us in laughter.

Our half dozen cows gave us fresh milk daily. We used only the cream, and fed the skim milk to the hogs, along with kitchen scraps. We sold our surplus grain, eggs and some cream, and an occasional cow, pig or lamb. In the spring, Dad sheared our several dozen sheep, and sold the wool.

With his Navy pension and the occasional farm income, he was probably one of the better-off residents of Sebewa.

In the fall, I hunted pheasants, rabbits, squirrels and sometimes ducks for the dinner table, and in the winter I trapped muskrats, mink, skunks and weasels, selling the pelts in nearby Portland. By 1940, when I was 16, I had saved \$65—enough to buy my first car, a 1931 Model A Ford.

The five years from 1936 to 1941 must have been among the happiest in



Frank H. Rathbun Sr. with his sister, Louise (Rathbun) McCrath, who came to his aid many times during his troubled years. The picture was taken by your editor about 1938 in front of her home near Grand Rapids.

my father's life. My sister Peggy joined us on the farm about 1940. He had both his children with him, and his marriage had worked out wonderfully well. He and Mom had few problems.

But things changed for him, as for all Americans, on Dec. 7, 1941. My Aunt Lou and Uncle Walt McCrath had spent that Sunday with us, and after dinner, I stretched out on the parlor sofa for a nap, while the "old folks" talked in the dining room. I awoke to the sound of excited voices, and heard our radio announcing that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

"Where's Pearl Harbor?" I asked. I can still remember my father's reply. "It's in the Hawaiian Islands. I've been there, and I've got a feeling you will be there one of these days."

His hunch was right. Five weeks later, aged 17, I announced that I was going to quit high school and join the Marines. My Dad reluctantly gave his consent. He later wrote me:

"You were so young . . . but you wanted to go so bad that I was afraid it might cause you to bear a rancor toward me if I refused, and that would have ruined the few remaining years I have to be with you."

On January 19, 1942, I was sworn into the Marine Corps at Detroit, and

after a three-day train ride across the country, I entered the Marine Corps Training Center (Boot Camp) at San Diego, California.

Dad wrote to me regularly during the four years I spent in the Marines, and I still have all his letters. They show a real insight into his personality, and into the anguish and worry felt by parents whose sons were at war.

When I finished my basic training in May, he wrote:

"I would give a lot to walk in on you now for a long talk and see you in uniform. I have always been proud of you son, and as you grow older I want my pride to grow until, when my times comes to depart this earth, I can with complete confidence turn an honorable name over to you to defend."

He must have been in a depressed mood when he wrote a few months later:

"You will live in later years with memories of the past as I am doing now. Some of the memories are sweet, some are bitter, but they are all I have left of days that are gone forever."

On my 18th birthday that October, he wrote:

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"I wish you a very happy birthday son. It is your first so far away and among strangers, but that is the scheme of life and the best way to adjust to it is to lead such a life that you will always be surrounded by friends."

Later that month, my regiment was ordered to New Zealand, then believed to be facing a possible Japanese invasion. I wrote Dad a short note the day before we left. His reply, which I did not receive for several months, concluded: "God bless you son and bring you safely home to your loving Dad."

We disembarked in Wellington, New Zealand, in mid-November, and I sent Dad a cable message that I had arrived safely.

In a letter dated Nov. 16, he wrote: "At 8:20 this morning (one hour ago), the phone rang and when I answered it, fifty years dropped off my shoulders. The telegraph office in Lansing read me your cable."

Before I left, we had arranged our own private code so that I could let him know where I was. Our mail was censored so we could not divulge our whereabouts. We had decided that I would make up fake names with the initials of the places I was stationed. When we landed in New Zealand, I sent my regards to Ned Zimmerman. When we were in the Solomon Islands, I asked him to say hello to Sally Ingraham.

Although I tried to write regularly, knowing how worried he was, mail service was understandably slow. On Dec. 23, he wrote: "Only two more days to hear from you before Christmas, and I have about lost hope. . . it would be a grand Christmas present to get a letter from you."

He got his wish. On Dec. 26, he wrote me: "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition. My fondest hopes and prayers were realized. On the day before Christmas, your letter written Thanksgiving Day was delivered into my grateful hands."

The following May 20, 1943, was graduation day for my high school. Although I had not been there for my scheduled graduation the previous

year, the school principal called Dad and asked him to attend. He wrote me this report.

"Well son, your old man is a pretty proud fellow this morning. . . We went to commencement last night at Sunfield High School and on a beautifully decorated stage were 19 empty chairs. Down the center aisle marched 16 seniors led by two juniors, one of whom was Peg (my sister), dressed in a formal gown of white, and believe me she was a knockout.

"The seniors took their seats on the stage. . . leaving an empty chair at the apex of the arc. That chair was decorated in red, white and blue, and that, my son, was your chair. Mr. Bekken (the principal) rose to explain to the crowd whose chair it was and told them all about you. Believe me son, you sure got a hand, and my chest expanded way past the danger point."

Despite the war, life on the farm continued pretty much as usual. Dad wrote on Nov. 7:

"Sold the black cow that I bought from Jake Van Polen to Gerrit Smith yesterday. She had freshened the day before. He gave me \$130 for the cow and calf and thinks he beat the 'old man,' but he doesn't know her like I do. I could get pretty nearly as good a teat of milk from the pump as I got from her, and it would be a lot easier to get."

That November, my Second Marine Division landed on Tarawa and in a bloody three-day battle seized the atoll from its Japanese defenders. Some 1,000 Marines were killed and several thousand more wounded. Dad knew from newspaper reports that my division was there and that casualties were high. He wrote on Nov. 30:

"I am worried sick about you son, for I am quite sure that you are at Tarawa and the losses there have been so great that only Rathbun luck will get you through. . . I am anxiously waiting for word son, and I hope, oh how I hope, that you are alright."

Five days later he wrote again:

"No news is good news, but damn me if I would not like to hear from you and know for sure that you are alright. The Marine losses at Tarawa were terrible and I know that your division was in the thick of it. I spend half my time

at the radio and the other half watching for the mailman."

I had written Dad only days after the fighting ended, but mail delivery was understandably slow. It was more than a month before he received my letter. On Dec. 18, he wrote:

"The grandest Christmas present ever bestowed upon me came yesterday when the mailman brought the letter saying you were safe and sound after the Tarawa battle. . . I feel like a 30-year-old this morning. Yesterday morning and all the mornings for the past month I had felt like I was 400 and aging fast."

He seldom commented on the war itself, but his deep feelings came through in a letter on Jan. 25, 1944: "If the war does not put an end to all wars, then the human race will have proven itself wholly unfit to govern itself and it will be better to revert to barbarianism and let dog eat dog."

In May 1944, my sister Peggy married her high school sweetheart, who had joined the Navy. Dad gave me the details in a letter dated May 29:

"By the time this reaches you, your sister and my baby will be united in marriage with Burt Daniels. He is home on a 10-day leave. They asked my consent and I gave it, but quite reluctantly, but I could do nothing else as Peg will be 18 in a few months and on her own. They are too young in my opinion (Peg was 17, Burt 19), and war marriages are not, as a rule, very successful. But I will give them my blessing and hope their marriage will be one of the exceptions."

The tragic climax came three months later. On August 31, he wrote me:

"Well son, Peg, a bride of less than three months, is now a widow. A message came yesterday from the Navy Department that Burt's ship had been sunk and all on board had perished. Poor Peg! My heart goes out to her in her sorrow, but she is young and wounds in the heart of the young heal much quicker than in the more mature. Write a nice letter to Peg. She will need sympathy to ease her grief."

In the meantime, my division had taken Saipan and then Tinian, and again Dad spent anxious weeks awaiting word of my safety.

He wrote in a depressed mood on Sept. 24, "I just can't seem to enjoy life any more. With both my kids gone, it has left me a lonely old man. (Peg had moved to Detroit with the Slaters and was working there.)

In November 1944, after 22 months overseas and four battles, I was finally sent back to the states, and arrived just in time for Christmas. Dad met me at the bus depot in Portland and tears came as he hugged me for the first time in nearly three years.

Two days later, we drove to Detroit to see Peg and the Slaters. On that half-day drive, Dad went "off the wagon" for the first time in nearly 10 years. We stopped to eat, and he ordered a beer. In Detroit, he had an other, and by nightfall he was drunk. The next day, embarrassed and ashamed, he apologized to us all, and swore it would never happen again. To the best of my knowledge, it never did.

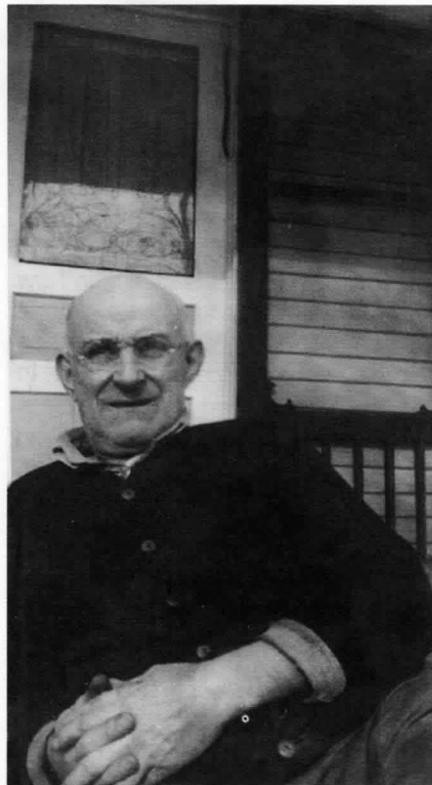
I still had a year to go on my enlistment, and after a 30-day furlough I returned to duty and was assigned as a recruiting sergeant, in Chicago, Cleveland and finally Toledo. That spring, I was promoted to staff sergeant at the age of 20, and Dad was glowing with pride. My brother Art, in the Army, was a master sergeant.

Dad still wrote to me often, and his letters were sprinkled with comments on life and advice on my future. He asked me if I wanted to return to the farm when my time was up, and said it would be mine if I wanted it. But I had no desire to be a farmer, so he decided to sell the farm. He and Mom moved into "town"—the little village of Lowell, not far from his birthplace.

His letters often expressed concern for my future, and I repeatedly wrote back: "Don't worry about me." He finally became irritated.

"You tell me not to worry about you," he wrote. "Try telling the ocean to stand still or the sun to start rising in the west. The results would be the same as in telling a parent not to worry about his children."

I was discharged from the Marine Corps on January 13, 1946, and after a short visit to the folks in Lowell, I decided to return to Toledo, where I had a girl friend and a job waiting.



Frank H. Rathbun Sr. pictured on the front porch of his farm home in Michigan, just before he moved into "town" and about a year before his death.

Dad and I still corresponded regularly. When the G.I. Bill was passed that year, with a provision for free college education, he advised me to take advantage of it and study journalism. He had decided that I was a good writer. I later followed his advice.

I tried to visit Lowell at least once a month that year. Dad was 72 and was beginning to show his age. He refused to give in, however, and spent much of his time in the spring of 1946 painting houses for elderly widows in Lowell.

Then on June 2, 1946, I returned from work one day and found a message that Dad had suffered a heart attack, and was hospitalized in Grand Rapids. I was on the way five minutes later and arrived at the hospital about 11 p.m. It was long past visiting hours, and he was in an intensive care unit, but I insisted on seeing him, and was finally given permission to visit his room.

He was in an oxygen tent, looking pale and weak, but his eyes glistened

when he saw me, and he clutched my hand. "I knew you'd come, son," he said softly.

A week later, he was sitting up in bed and insisting that he should go home. I returned to Toledo, thinking he was on the road to recovery. On June 15 came word that he had died that morning in the hospital.

I drove back to Michigan the next morning, crying much of the way. When I arrived home, I found a tragic situation. My brother Art had flown in that morning from his home in Philadelphia, and had suggested that he and Mom go to the bank and open Dad's safety deposit box. Mom replied, "No, we'd better wait for Frank."

"Why?" asked Art. "I'm the oldest son." Mom and my Aunt Lou then sat down with Art and told him what he had never dreamed—that my dad was not his real father. It was a shocking blow to Art, then 39, and he spent the rest of the day alone, in tears.

(My father had made the entire family swear when he married my mother that no one was ever to tell Art that he was not really a Rathbun. I received the same word when I learned, by accident, the true story, when I was about 16.)

Dad was buried in the Sebewa Cemetery, near the farm where he had spent 10 happy years. The Lowell newspaper, in reporting on his death, commented: "Friendliness was one of Mr. Rathbun's leading characteristics. He was a careful and honest man in business, having a fine sense of right and justness. A good conversationalist, his wide experience and travels made him an interesting friend and neighbor."

In my father's papers, I found a poem which he had written many years before, probably in the sad days following my mother's death in 1928. The poem concluded:

"When I fold my tent and am on my way,

All I ask of my neighbors to say,
Is, He lived his life and he paid his debts.

And that's about all the best of us gets."

Those words seemed to express one of his major themes, which I often

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for them outside the stands, and they wanted plenty of time to get miles away before their plot was discovered.

By the end of the game, Papa Riddle suddenly noticed that Pouch Rathbone was no longer playing, and that his daughter had not returned from "seeing Martha." It dawned on him that he had been tricked.

In a furious rage, he roared, "Nobody would think the cad would elope in a baseball suit!" He rushed to the local telegraph office and wired the police in Parkersburg to arrest the couple on sight. He assumed that they would go to Parkersburg, the nearest "big city," to get married.

But Pouch had anticipated Riddle's move, and he had taken Pink in the other direction, north to the Ohio River, which they crossed by ferry and found a justice of the peace in Marietta, Ohio.

There they were married—Pouch Rathbone still in his baseball uniform!

Then they went to Parkersburg, and put up at a hotel for the night. The next day they drove back to Elizabeth, Pouch now dressed in a natty new suit.

By this time, the entire town had heard the story, and just about everybody in Elizabeth turned out to greet the newlyweds. The courthouse was turned into a banquet hall and the rest of the day was spent in merrymaking.

At some point that day, Papa and Mama Riddle showed up and recognized that there was nothing they could do. They shook hands with Pouch and welcomed him to the family.

Ten months later, Pink, had the first of what would be three children. They later moved to Weatherford, Texas, where Pouch died July 5, 1929, aged 58. Pink lived to be 86, and died Jan. 15, 1961.

(Our thanks for this charming story, and the picture which accompanies it, to Lilyan Thacker, a member of our Association and a great-niece of Pouch and Pink Rathbone. The story first appeared in a Parkersburg newspaper.)

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They were accompanied by a young lawyer, Appleton Downer, who planned to remain in the area as John Rathbone's land agent. They spent part of the winter in a crude two-room house, with a wood floor in one room and bare dirt in the other—a far cry from their fashionable mansion in New York City. During the winter, Juliette and young Downer fell in love, and on Dec. 14, 1815, they were married, in Zanesville. They lived there the rest of their lives. Of their children, John Rathbone Downer became a minister, and Edward Mott Downer became a college professor and banker. Appleton Downer died in 1833 and Juliette died Nov. 15, 1863.

10. EMMA MARIA RATHBONE was born March 23, 1797, in New York City. She went with her father and sister Juliette to Ohio in the fall of 1815, and that winter met a young physician, Dr. Dudley Woodbridge Rhodes, then 23 years old. They fell in love and were married the following spring, on March 9, 1816, in Zanesville. John Rathbone had taken two daughters to Ohio, and returned without either. One of the Rhodes sons, Charles Rathbone Rhodes, was a prominent attorney in St. Louis and Marietta, Ohio. Another, Rev. Dudley Ward Rhodes, became a nationally known Episcopal minister and writer. A son of Charles Rathbone Rhodes, also named Charles, had a successful career in art and became curator of the St. Louis Museum of Fine Arts. Dr. Dudley Rhodes Rathbone died Oct. 16, 1840. Emma died Dec. 11, 1866.

11. MARY ROSALIE RATHBONE, the youngest of John Rathbone's children, was born Sept. 20, 1800, in New York City, and was married there May 15, 1822, to Samuel Buckley Ruggles, a Yale-educated lawyer who had an extraordinary career. He was elected to the New York State Legislature in 1837, served as a member and then chairman of the New York Canal Commission, and with his brother-in-law John Rathbone Jr. helped establish the New York Bank of Commerce, and like him served on the board of directors of the Bank of the United States. In 1859, he was president of

the New York City Chamber of Commerce. In 1867 and 1869 he was a United States representative to the International Monetary Conferences, held, respectively, in Paris and the Hague. He was an author, a trustee of Columbia University, and according to Cooley was the first contributor to funds for the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. Their son James Francis Ruggles also became an attorney and did all the complicated title work when New York City purchased the land for what is now Central Park. Mary died Oct. 12, 1878, in New York City, and Ruggles died there three years later on August 28, 1881.

(Our thanks to Mary Anne Cummins for the pictures of Eliza (Rathbone) Wetmore; to Juliet Pantel for the picture of John Rathbone, Jr., and to Rosalind Askin for the picture of Clarissa (Rathbone) Smith).

In our July issue, page 43, there was a typographical error in the address of Robert Rathbone. It should be RD# 1, Box 127, Ossipee, N.H. (not N.Y.) 03864.

In our April Historian, we related the drastic efforts of Milton Rathbun to lose weight, and speculated on the cause of his death in 1902, aged 59. His death certificate, of which we have a copy, shows that he died of peritonitis, caused by the "passage of gallstones." He had been ill for five days before his death.

Henry L. Rathbun, son of Amasa⁶ Rathbun (Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), was not born April 30, 1828, and did not have a wife named Maria, as reported in our Historian of October 1985 (page 60). This Henry was the son of Greene⁶ Rathbun (Greene⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), who is listed in our Historian of October 1986, page 59, and he obviously is not the Henry who married Elizabeth Vandewater as we had conjectured. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

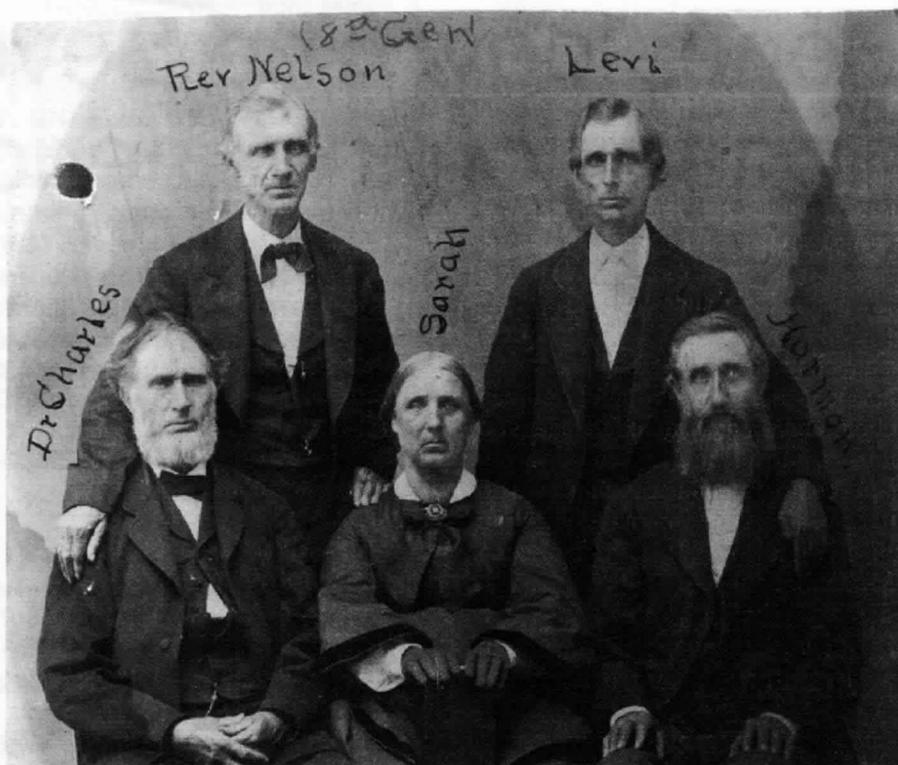
(Continued from page 57)

heard—keep your word and pay your debts.

Mom lived on another 22 years, dying on Aug. 10, 1968, a few months before her 94th birthday. She was a most remarkable woman, and it was from her that I learned many details of my father's early life.

My Aunt Lou, Dad's younger sister who had come to his aid many times during his troubled years, died in 1957, at the age of 78. She also told me many stories about my father.

It is a difficult task to write the life story of someone you loved, and do it without bias. My father was not a perfect man, but he was a good, intelligent and honest man, and a caring, devoted father. I have tried to record his life story with honesty and accuracy, as I think he would have wanted. I hope I have succeeded, and I trust that he would say of my work: "Good job son!"



This remarkably clear picture, taken in the 1870s, shows the five surviving children of John Tillinghast Rathbun (1790-1850), son of Clark⁵ Rathbun (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). In the front row, from left, are Dr. Charles Rathbun, born in 1809; Sarah (Rathbun) Clemens, born in 1817, and Harmon Rathbun, born in 1819. In the back row are Rev. Nelson Rathbun (left), born in 1814, and Levi Rathbun, born in 1811, an activist in the Underground Railroad of the 1850s. The picture was sent us by the late Gail Rathbun, a descendent of Harmon, whose full name was Strange Harmon Griffin Rathbun.

New Data

In our Historian of October 1983 (page 59), we stated that Abigail (Topliff) Rathbun, first wife of Joseph Avery⁵ Rathbun (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), died about 1787. This was based on Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy. A recently published book of early Connecticut divorces has revealed that Abigail divorced Joseph on January 15, 1787, in Tolland Co., Conn., charging him with misconduct. This is the first known divorce in our family. The divorce record states that they were married at Pittsfield, Mass., on April 28, 1785. Cooley gave the marriage date as June 8, 1785. The record shows the name as Rathbone, although Joseph and his descendants used the Rathbun spelling.

Mary (Sheffield) Rathbone, second wife of John⁵ Rathbone (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), died July 14, 1840, not in March that year as reported in our Historian of July 1983. Our thanks to Mary Anne Cummins.

Paul⁶ Rathbun (Elias⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), who was recorded in the genealogical section of our July 1987 Historian, had a previously unknown second marriage. Connecticut divorce records show that he was married on May 5, 1855, a few months after the death of his first wife, Hannah Burdick, to Sarah L. Clark. The marriage broke up about three years later, and he divorced Sarah on Oct. 14, 1858, for desertion. By 1860, he had married Martha (Hall) Linnell, widow of Moses Linnell, whom she had married on Aug. 25, 1836. Paul and his first wife Hannah also had another daughter, previously unknown, named Abigail A., born about 1852.

Rhoda Gillette, first wife of Lucius⁶ Rathbun (Johnathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), was the daughter of Wilkes Gillette and Mary (Silvie) Gillette.

In our January 1986 Historian (Corrections, page 14), we listed an unidentified Cornelia Rathbone who married F.W. Bert. She was actually Caroline Rathbone, born about 1821, daughter of John⁶ Rathbone (Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). She was married in January 1842 to F.W. Bert, born June 20, 1819. They moved to Ulysses Township, Cameron County, Pa. Our thanks to Helen Heyart, who found the Berts in an 1890 Cameron County history.

Sarah Rathbun, daughter of Benjamin⁵ Rathbun (William⁴ Job³ Joseph² John¹), was married to Hiram D. Wood on April 3, 1853, not 1843, as listed in our Historian of April 1985, page 28. Our thanks to Gloria Kent for noticing this typographical error.

Genealogy: The Seventh Generation in America

(With this issue, we begin the seventh generation of Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns in America, continuing our system of following male lines only, and starting with the eldest son of the eldest son etc. We begin with the descendants of John² Rathbun, oldest son of our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun.

1. JAMES⁷ RATHBUN (Amos⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Oct. 28, 1799, in Horton Landing, Nova Scotia, and married there Dec. 15, 1823, Matilda Trefey, born Jan. 10, 1804, daughter of Joshua Pitman and Elizabeth (Henry) Trefey. He was a shoemaker for many years, then became keeper of the lighthouse at Horton's Bluff, where he died Dec. 13, 1865. His wife's death date is not known.

CHILDREN

SARAH ELIZABETH, born Dec. 6, 1824; died Sept. 22, 1826.

LAVINIA ANN, born March 18, 1827; married Alfred Curry on Oct. 28, 1845.

RACHEL MARGARET, born Oct. 6, 1829; married Robert Dickenson on Sept. 8, 1858.

JAMES EDWIN, born Oct. 2, 1832; died May 6, 1837.

CHARLES EDWIN, born Oct. 6, 1837; married (1) Harriet Phinney, and (2) Mrs. Susan Monroe.

2. AMOS⁷ RATHBUN (Amos⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born March 2, 1810, at Horton Landing and married there on Feb. 7, 1833, Sarah Ann Godfrey, born in 1812, daughter of Anthony Godfrey. They lived for some years at Falmouth, Nova Scotia, but returned in 1851 to Horton Landing.

Sarah died there on April 2, 1880, and he died there April 20, 1888, after "a severe illness lasting over two years, during which time he was a great sufferer," according to Cooley.

CHILDREN

MARY, born Dec. 9, 1833; married William H. Knowles.

PHOEBE EUNICE, born July 21, 1835; married Charles Curry on Sept. 16, 1859.

MARCUS, born July 25, 1837; married (1) Mary Rockwell, and (2) Rebecca Rockwell.

SAMUEL ANTHONY, born Nov. 13, 1839; died unmarried some time after 1918.

CHARLES, born in 1841; married _____ Norse.

MATILDA LAVINIA, born Jan. 27, 1843; married Manning Knowles.

JANE ALVIRA, born Feb. 18, 1849; married Edward L. Gould, her sister's widower, in 1897.

RACHEL EMMA, born April 21, 1851; married Edward L. Gould in June 1877 and died about 1896.

HELEN ELIZABETH, born June 3, 1854; died unmarried in 1928.

3. WILLIAM⁷ RATHBUN (Roswell⁶ Amos⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Jan. 20, 1794, in Horton Landing, and married March 18, 1818, at Cornwallis, N.S., Olive Fuller, born in 1796, parentage unknown. He drowned at Horton Landing after falling from a bridge on March 22, 1858. Olive died there Sept. 3, 1875.

CHILDREN

CHARLES, born about 1820; died young?

AMY, born about 1822; died young?
WILLIAM, born about 1824; married (?) Margaret Fuller.

ANN, born about 1826; married George Carter.

MARGARET, born about 1828; married Milton George on Aug. 21, 1855, in Boston, Mass.

MARY, born about 1830; married Oliver Fuller on Nov. 5, 1859.

4. JAMES EDWARD⁷ RATHBUN (Arunah⁶ Amos⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born March 16, 1802, at Horton Landing, and married there March 20, 1828, Lavinia Hamilton, born Nov. 17, 1802, daughter of James Hamilton and Nancy Rathbun⁶ Harris (Anna⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). He died there March 31, 1874, and Lavinia died there July 16, 1889.

CHILDREN

HARRIS HAMILTON, born March 11, 1830; died Aug. 27, 1831.

JAMES OTIS, born Feb. 3, 1832; married Anna Lyons Simson.

ELIZABETH ANN, born July 27, 1834; married Nathan L. Fuller on June 1, 1859.

MARY JANE, born Oct. 18, 1836; died Jan. 13, 1842.

HENRY HAMILTON, born June 5, 1839; drowned Oct. 21, 1862, off the coast of England.

WILLIAM KING (or Knight?), born March 27, 1842; died March 6, 1910, at Horton Landing, unmarried.

CHARLES F. ALLISON, born April 9, 1844; married Edna M. Harris.

JULIA SOPHIA, born April 19, 1846; married Charles L. Greene (or Greere?), on Oct. 27, 1878, in Boston, Mass.

5 SILAS⁷ RATHBUN (Arunah⁶ Amos⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born June 10, 1804, at Horton Landing, and married there April 12, 1852, Mrs. Sarah Buchanan, a widow, born about 1830, names of parents and first husband unknown. She died Dec. 30, 1860, eight days after childbirth. Silas died Feb. 7, 1886.

CHILDREN

CHARLES W., born in August 1853; married Althea (Duncanson) Eaton.

JAMES E., born in May 1857; married Jessie M. Dryden.

ELIZABETH SARAH, born about 1858; married James Field on March 21, 1883, in Cambridge, Mass.

ALEXANDER L., born in Oct. 1859; married Lizzie D. Gross.

WALTER L., born Dec. 22, 1860; married Elsie J. Sprague.

6. JOSEPH⁷ RATHBUN (Charles⁶ Amos⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Aug. 9, 1804, at Horton Landing, and married there on Nov. 25, 1832, Grace Amelia Irish, born Aug. 9, 1809, daughter of John and Margaret B. (Day) Irish. She died Dec. 20, 1882, and he died July 26, 1888, both at Newport, N.S.

CHILDREN

CHARLES EDWARD, born Sept. 24, 1833; died March 22, 1834.

JOHN BELL, born March 3, 1835; went to California about 1862 and died there Nov. 20, 1899; no known marriage.

GEORGE MERCER, born Jan. 8, 1837; married Jane Burke.

MARY ANN, born Feb. 1, 1839; married John Allison in Dec. 1871.

MARGARET T. BUNBURY, born Jan. 22, 1841; married J. Chambers on July 18, 1868.

ELIZABETH, born May 18, 1843; married Nicholas Curry on Aug. 18, 1877.

JAMES ALLISON, born Dec. 2, 1845; married and left two children, names unknown. Died Nov. 20, 1900.

JOSEPH FREDERICK, born Oct. 27, 1852; married Lenore DeWolfe.

FRANCES MARIA, born March 3, 1855; died unmarried on April 4, 1925.

7. CHARLES WILLIAM⁷ RATHBUN (Charles⁶ Amos⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born July 18, 1806, at Horton Landing, and married there in July 1836 Rebecca R. Morris, born in 1811 in England, daughter of Alexander and Annie Morris. They moved to the United States about 1857, first to Indiana, and then to Philadelphia, Pa. Charles died June 19, 1861, at Chester, Pa., and Rebecca died Nov. 17, 1883, at Wyoming, Ohio.

CHILDREN

MARGARET ALLISON, born April 6, 1837; married Alexander H. McLeod.

JOSEPH, born about 1840; died young?

CHARLES MORRIS, born in April 1842; married Elizabeth Hall.

8. INGLES⁷ RATHBUN (Daniel⁶ Amos⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born about 1810; Cooley reported that he went to California as a young man, but he appears in 1848-1851 city directories in Troy, N.Y., as a wagonmaker. At the time of his father's death in 1848 he was listed as "residence unknown." We have found no record of a marriage or children.

9. JOHN⁷ RATHBUN Daniel⁶ Amos⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born about 1811 at Horton Landing, and married there on June 10, 1844, Lavinia Rathbun, born Dec. 12, 1817, daughter of Arunah and Elizabeth (Crane) Rathbun. They apparently lived for a time in Cleveland, Ohio, but returned to Horton Landing, where John died Jan. 9, 1871, and Lavinia in 1906.

CHILDREN

FREDERICK J., born Nov. 16, 1845; married Catherine H. Dickenson.

ELIZABETH SARAH, born Jan. 4, 1847; died June 22, 1925, in Wolfville, N.S., unmarried.

FRANK ALLISON, born April 4, 1850; married Annie ____ and/or Laura ____.

10. ERASTUS⁷ RATHBUN (Abel⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born April 7, 1800, in Salem, Conn. He moved as a young man to Ohio and was married there March 5, 1834, to Mary Alice Latimer, born July 10, 1810, daughter of ?Albert Latimer. They lived at New Lyme, Ashtabula County, Ohio, where he died March 30, 1889. Alice was married a few years after his death to ____ Chesterfield, and died in 1897.

CHILDREN

ALBERT LATIMER, born Jan. 31, 1835; married Delina Peck.

EDWIN DOUGLAS, born March 6, 1836; he went to live with an uncle and aunt—William and Lucy (Latimer) Douglas—and took the Douglas name.

ABEL GOODRICH, born Aug. 12, 1837; married Finetta P. Watson.

JOHN ORLANDO, born Jan. 24, 1843; died unmarried in 1928.

MARY JANETTE, born Sept. 23, 1845; died unmarried in 1914.

ADELINE ELNORA, born May 31, 1849; married Howard Shaffer on Oct. 9, 1872.

11. ABEL⁷ RATHBUN (Abel⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born June 30, 1810, in Salem, Conn., and married there Dec. 2, 1846, Lydia Button Thurston, born Sept. 6, 1823, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Button) Thurston. They lived many years in Salem, then moved to nearby Norwich. Abel was a justice of the peace and served from 1840 to 1850 in the Conn. State Legislature. He operated a farm on the New London Turnpike. Lydia died April 8, 1882, and Abel died August 12, 1893.

CHILDREN

MARY ALICE, born Nov. 8, 1847; died young.

MARY ALICE, born Nov. 8, 1850; married Joseph Hendrix in Nov. 1875.

JOHN FULLER, born Aug. 30, 1852; he was a newspaperman in Norwich and later in Brooklyn and New York City. He never married, and

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died August 27, 1899, of Bright's died August 27, 1899, of Bright's Disease.

CAROLINE LOUISE, born Nov. 17, 1854; died in December 1877.

JENNIE SOPHIA, born Nov. 8, 1863; died unmarried in 1923.

12. ASA⁷ RATHBUN (Asa⁶ Abel⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Oct. 3, 1800, at Salem, Conn. He was married June 1, 1826, to Fannie Geer, born about 1810, parentage unknown. He died at Norwich, Conn., on Dec. 25, 1840. Fannie died there Dec. 1, 1871.

CHILDREN

DWIGHT HENRY, born Feb. 5, 1827 (or 1829); married Margaret Ann Sherman.

ANN E., born about 1830; married George H. Carroll on May 14, 1848.

SARAH, born about 1833; married (?) Joseph Selden on May 3, 1856, at Norwich.

13. RUSSELL B.⁷ RATHBUN (Asa⁶ Abel⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Sept. 27, 1802, at Salem, Conn., and married there July 4, 1830, Jerusha A. Harvey, born July 24, 1809, parentage unknown. She divorced him early in 1840, charging desertion, and nothing more is known of him. He does not appear in the 1850 Conn. census, and may have died by that time. Jerusha died Oct. 5, 1876.

CHILD

LUCY ANN, born Sept. 15, 1831; married Austin O. Gallup on Jan. 25, 1855.

14. ALBAN⁷ RATHBUN (Asa⁶ Abel⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Nov. 27, 1803, in Salem, Conn. He was married Oct. 16, 1836, at Colchester, Conn., to Harriet Lorinda H. Rogers, born Feb. 4, 1819, daughter of W. Bliss and Asenath (Burham) Rogers. Alban died at Salem on July 27, 1841, aged 37. Harriet's death date is not known.

CHILDREN

HARRIET, born Feb. 8, 1838; no further information.

ALBAN, born Nov. 7, 1839; married Harriet A. Strickland.

15. GEORGE W.⁷ RATHBUN (Asa⁶ Abel⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Aug. 18, 1809, in Salem, Conn., and married Nov. 9, 1835, at New London, Olive Hutchinson Chapman, born March 18, 1815, daughter of Eliphalet and Sarah (Congdon) Chapman. George was a mason in New London, where in 1852 he built the New Haven and New London Railroad Depot and the New London jailhouse. He later moved to Colchester, but finally returned to Salem, where he died Nov. 22, 1887. Olive died Sept. 18, 1896.

CHILDREN

GEORGE W., born about 1837; served in the Union Army in the Civil War, and died March 20, 1893, at Salem. No known marriage.

OLIVE H., born about 1839; married (1) Addison C. Taintor on Oct. 22, 1862; divorced him in 1863 and married (2) Charles H. Bailey.

AMOS, born in August 1841; died Jan. 17, 1843.

ABIGAIL J., born in 1843; married James Strickland on Oct. 10, 1867.

LUCY A., born Sept. 6, 1848; married Wales W. Clapp on Aug. 19, 1872; divorced in 1875, and then married George Hayden on Nov. 18, 1890.

HARRIET, born April 20, 1850; died Jan. 24, 1889.

HELEN (twin), born April 20, 1850; married Dr. Lucius L. Button on April 20, 1870. He was 39 years older than her, and they were apparently divorced. She then married (2) George C. Higgins, who was 41 years her senior.

SARAH, born March 11, 1852; no further data.

16. AMOS⁷ RATHBUN (Asa⁶ Abel⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Dec. 28, 1812, in Colchester, Conn. He moved as a young man to Fulton

County, Ohio, and was married, probably there, to Margaret Feno (Fenno, Fenner?), born in Dec. 1809, parentage unknown. They lived for some years in Ohio, then moved to Lenawee County, Michigan, where he died August 18, 1887. Margaret died in 1906, aged 97.

CHILDREN

HANNAH MARIA, born in 1838; married _____ Pratt.

MARY ANN, born in 1840; married William Klink on July 4, 1862.

SARAH ANN (twin), born in 1840; died unmarried in 1920.

FRANKLIN HARRISON, born in Oct. 1842; married Mary A. Boss.

SIDNEY A., born in 1845; married Lucy A. Hoadley.

LOVINA, born in 1848; married _____ Shulters.

CHARLES HENRY, born in Nov. 1849; died in 1927, no known marriage.

GEORGE B., born in Oct. 1851; died in 1903; no known marriage

Thanks

WE THANK the following members who have sent in family data, pictures, clippings and other materials: Mary Ellen Claypool, Clair Cornell, David E. Rathbun, Rob Rathbun, Shirley Bartlett, Art Hutchinson, Orson Rathburn Jr., Dr. Earl H. Antes, Gwen Cathy, Lauren Landis, Robert A. Greene, Sherman Boivin, Jeanne Chubbuck, Roy and Anna May Rathbun, Mary E. Eade, Bruce Mark Rathbun, LaVerne Rathbun, Frank E. Rathbun, Ellen Gardner Brown, Edward and Betty Rathbone, Lynn Rathbun, Joyce Hory, Patti Garrett, John Rathbone, Roy Rathbun, Patti L. Baron, Helen M. Rathbun, Reba Reeves, Fred C. Rathbun, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Frank R. Wright, Bob Willis, Emmett and Florence Rathbun, Mildred Rathburn, Jim Stites, Dr. Katharine Rathbun, Eugene W. Rathbone, Laura M. Burrows, Rosma Limbeck, Bettye Rathbone, Blanche Weirum, Jean Halden Walker, Marlow C. Rathbun, Lilyan Thacker.

Obituaries

DIED—June 22, 1992, Gail Bernard Rathbun, 75, of Woodside, California. He was the son of Rex Harold⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ Harmon⁷ John⁶ Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹). Mr. Rathbun had just joined our Association this year, and had sent us a great deal of material. He was an electrical engineer and president of Rathbun Associates of Mountain View, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Berta; a daughter, Karen and a son Galen, and a brother, Rex Rathbun.

DIED—June 23, 1992, Roy W. Rathbun, 76, of Quincy, Illinois. He was a son of Millard⁸ Rathbun (Henry⁷ William⁶ Ami⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). A veteran of World War I, he left no immediate survivors. His wife, Vera, died in 1974.

DIED—Feb. 28, 1992, Cora Blanche Rathbone, 94, at Havre, Montana. She was the wife of Fay⁹ Rathbone (Albert⁸ Philander⁷ Lyman⁶ Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻¹). She and Mr. Rathbone had been married 69 years and seven months. In addition to her husband, she is survived by three sons, Walter, Kenneth and Donald; six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

DIED—March 17, 1992, Thomas Perry Rathbun, 40, of Austerlitz, N.Y. He was a son of the late Wesley⁹ Rathbun (Perry⁸ Norman⁷⁻⁶ John⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Survivors include his mother Bertha; two brothers, Donald and Wayne Rathbun, and two sisters, Wendy Rathbun and Deborah Giumarra.

DIED—August 5, 1992, Henry W. Ercanbrack, 83, at Gloversville, N.Y. He was the son of James and Valla (Shaw) Ercanbrack, and grandson of Christie Ann⁷ Rathbun Shaw (Joseph⁶ Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He is survived by three daughters and eight grandchildren.

DIED—July 23, 1992, Grace M. (Goulding) Rathbun, 89, at South Kingstown, R.I. She was the widow of Willis H. Rathbun (1899-1938), son of George⁸ Rathbun (Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻¹). She is survived by two sons, Willis H. and Charles W. Rathbun; two daughters, Sarah J. Grandchamp and Elizabeth M. Wilson; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

DIED—July 10, 1992, Calvin E. Reeves, 46, at Fitzgerald, Georgia. He was the son of our members Junior and Reba (Rathbun) Reeves. Reba is the daughter of John⁸ Rathbun (Hallet⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). In addition to his parents, he is survived by a sister, Kathy R. Arowood.

Reunions

Descendants of Hallet Rathbun (1841-1925) held their annual reunion July 4 at Fitzgerald, Georgia. Nearly 100 persons attended, including several of our members—Reba and Junior Reeves, Dixie Fountain and Ann Paulk. Hallet Rathbun was a Union soldier who settled in Georgia after the Civil War.

The Rathbun Family Association of Rhode Island held its third annual reunion July 26 in Stonington, Conn. Some 60 cousins attended the day-long outing, which featured a chicken barbecue. The oldest cousin present was our member Mabel (Rathbun) Gebler, at 91. A raffle was held to raise funds for the Block Island Southeast Lighthouse. Helen M. Rathbun is president of the Rhode Island group.

Descendants of Jonathan David Rathbun (1846-1919) held a reunion August at the old Rathbun farm near Chetek, Wisconsin. Among the many dozen participants were several members of our Association, including Dave and Jacki Blasko, and Paul and Rosma Limbeck.

DIED—April 25, 1992, Edith M. Higgins, 89, of Gloversville, N.Y. She was the daughter of Arthur and Lena (Burns) Higgins, and a granddaughter of Andrew Burns and Phoebe⁸ Rathburn (Samuel⁷ Joseph⁶ Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). There were no immediate survivors.

DIED—July 26, 1992, Benjamin A. Rathbun, 62, at Salamanca, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, Millie; four daughters, Cindy, Lynn and Pam Rathbun, and Michele Kent; six grandchildren; two brothers, Mike and Keith Rathbun, and two sisters, Mrs. Thomas (Beverly) Lates, and Mrs. Richard (Coreen) Dunham. We do not know Mr. Rathbun's ancestry. Can anyone help?

The earliest known sex scandal in our family's history has been discovered in Connecticut divorce records more than two centuries old.

On March 3, 1777, Mary Gates of Canterbury, Conn., divorced her husband of 15 years, Silas Gates, after accusing him of incest with their four-year-old daughter and with their nine-year-old servant girl, Elizabeth Rathbone.

Elizabeth was probably the daughter of Isaiah and Molly (Gates) Rathbun, born July 13, 1766. Isaiah (1723-1789) was the son of Jonathan³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹). He was married to Molly Gates on Jan. 9, 1763.

Molly Gates was the daughter of Hezekiah and Mary (Sawyer) Gates, and was probably a cousin of Silas, who was born in 1741, the son of Zebediah and Mehitable Gates. Possibly Isaiah and Molly had "farmed out" Elizabeth to the Gateses.

We do not know what happened to Elizabeth Rathbun, but she was quite probably the "Elizabeth Rothbone" who married Joseph Ashmore and was living at Albany, N.Y., in 1785. It seems likely that she would have left Connecticut after the child-abuse scandal.

People

EDNA DEVINNEY of Nunda, N.Y. celebrated her 100th birthday on July 18. She is the daughter of George⁷ Rathbun (Artemus⁶ Hubbard⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), and the widow of Floyd Devinney.

TARA RATHBUN has been chosen as a member of the 1992-3 cheerleading squad for the North Illinois University football team, the Huskies. She is the daughter of Rod and Debbie Rathbun and granddaughter of our member Roy⁹ Rathbun (Edward⁸ Charles⁷ Gamaliel⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹). Tara has been a cheerleader since the fifth grade, was a cheerleader for all four of her high school years and was named the 1991-2 Cheerleader of the year by her high school coaches.

MICHELE RATHBUN was one of the contestants in this year's "Mrs. Rhode Island USA Pageant" held last June 15. Although she did not win, she called the contest a "great experience." Michele, known as Micki, is 28 years old, a "five foot nine inch beauty with dark hair and hazel eyes." She is the wife of Edward¹² Rathbun (Edward¹¹ Everett¹⁰ Arthur⁹ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). She and her husband, married for three years, live in Coventry.

RATHBUN LAKE, IOWA, made headlines last June. University of Iowa researchers reported that women in 18 south-central Iowa communities served by the Rathbun Regional Water Association are having babies with birth defects at a rate double that in other Iowa towns. Rathbun Lake supplies water to 15 Iowa counties. One researcher reported that the lake has high levels of atrazine. A major study is under way to investigate the problem.

BROWNIE MARY RATHBUN is back in the news again. Mrs. Rathbun was arrested in 1981 in San Francisco for selling brownies laced with marijuana (See our Historian of October 1981, page 51). She was arrested for the same offense last July, charged with

Our New Members

Daniel Dix
Wooster, Ohio

Ronald McMillin
Everly, Iowa

Brian A. Rathbun
Pawcatuck, Conn.

Clarence E. Rathbun
San Diego, Calif.

Gilbert and Ann Rathbun
West Greenwich, R.I.

Dr. Katherine Rathbun
Topeka, Kansas

Marlow C. Rathbun
Poway, Calif.

Robert and Irene Rathburn
Cibola, Texas

giving marijuana brownies to AIDS patients. Mrs. Rathbun, a widow, gave her age as 64 in 1981, and now says she is 68. We do not know the name of her former husband.

DAVID D'AMORE and Ginger Lee Case were married Oct. 3, 1992, at Johnstown, N.Y. David is the son of Carmelo and Susan (Rathburn) D'Amore, and grandson of our members Mildred and Gaal¹⁰ Rathburn (William⁹⁻⁸ Samuel⁷ Joseph⁶ Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

GALEN B. RATHBUN had a fascinating article on dugongs, or elephant shrews, in the September issue of Natural History. The rare shrew is native to Africa, where Rathbun has been studying them for nearly 20 years. Rathbun, 48, a zoologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in San Simeon, California, is a son of the late Gail Bernard Rathbun, one of our members, who died last June. Gail was the son of Rex Harold⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ Harmon⁷ John⁶ Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹).

DAWN RAMOZ, your editor's granddaughter, has been named editorial director of her high school newspaper. Dawn, 16, is a junior at Woodhaven High School near Detroit, Michigan. Last year, one of her poems was published in the paper. She is the daughter of Ronald and Charity (Rathbun) Ramoz

LINDSAY S. REEKS has just published a 235-page book, "Ontario Loyalist Ancestors," which traces his wife's family lines back to Mercy³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹), who married Jonathan Burch in 1706. The book is \$35 postpaid and may be ordered directly from Lindsay at 2013 Westover Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

LOIS RATHBONE, one of our distant cousins in England, made headlines in London newspapers recently when she showed up at a "Sculpture Ball" at the Royal College of Art, dressed only in a black velvet choker around her neck! Lois, 26 and exceptionally well-built, posed for a sculptor during the ball, attracting a lot of spectators.

Philinda Marsden, wife of Orrin⁶ Rathbun (Russell⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), was the daughter of William and Sarah (Waring), Marsden. Our thanks to Doris Amsbury.

Susan D. Rathbun, listed in our July 1990 Historian, page 44, as a daughter of David Taylor⁶ Rathbun (Stephen⁵ Thomas⁴ Ebenezer³ William² John¹), was not his daughter, but a stepdaughter. She was actually Susan D. Sims, born in 1828, daughter of Rathbun's second wife, Hannah (Babcock) Sims, by her first husband, Jeremiah N. Sims. Hannah was the daughter of Henry and Prudence (Gavett) Babcock. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.