

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn  
**FAMILY  
HISTORIAN**



Lansing Kendall Rathbun  
(1824-1898)

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

## Letter from the Editor

Only one more issue to go, and our Historian will have completed its 14th year. It has been a long and exciting time, and I am extremely pleased when I look back over our past issues.

However, it has been and still is a lot of work. I considered discontinuing the Historian a year ago, but many members, and my wife Hazel, persuaded me to continue. I have now about decided, however, that I do need to cut back to some degree.

Rather than discontinue the Historian, I now plan to reduce the number of issues each year from four to two. Beginning in 1995, we will publish the Historian each Spring and Fall, possibly with a few more pages. That will reduce my work load by half, and will enable us to lower the annual dues by a few dollars. We'll have more details in the October issue.

I hope and trust you will agree that this is a satisfactory solution.

Those of you who were born, as I was, in the decades before 1930, will appreciate the following, which I borrowed from a recent issue of the WyMonDak Messenger of Belle Fourche, S.D.

"Everything is farther away than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner, and they've added a hill, I noticed...It seems to me they are making steps steeper than in the old days. And have you noticed the smaller print

they use in the newspaper. And there is no sense in asking anyone to read aloud...everyone speaks in such a low voice I can hardly hear them. The material in clothing is so skimpy now, especially around the waist and hips. It is all but impossible to reach my shoe laces. Even the people are changing. They are so much younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old classmate the other day. She had aged so much she didn't even recognize me...I glanced at myself in the mirror this morning and realized they don't make as good mirrors as they used to either."

Anyway, life goes on, and our Historian will go on, though less frequently. Our membership has crept up to 526, and our finances are in good shape.

We received a nice "pat on the back" in the June issue of the Barney Family News, published by the Barney Family Association. I sent their president, William (Cliff) Barney, some sample copies of our Historian, and he wrote: "The most professional family association quarterly I have ever seen is the Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn Family Historian, published by the Rathbun Family Association."

My thanks to Cliff Barney. If any of our members have Barney connections or questions, you can write to Cliff at 7361 Silver Pine Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22153.

We receive occasional financial donations for our Association, and they are always most appreciated. Edith Leppla recently sent \$50 in memory of her father Clarence Alva Matthewson. He was the grandson of Updike Cooper Rathbun. Another \$20 came from LaVerne E. Rathbun, to help pay for our computer.

*Frank*

## Association Raises \$960 for Alexandra

Thanks to the generosity of 31 Association members, we raised \$960 for the family of cancer-stricken Alexandra Ellis. The little four-year-old and her parents have been faced with hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills since their health insurance was canceled on a technicality.

Alexandra's mother, Regina Ellis, wrote your editor expressing her gratitude and giving an encouraging report on the little girl's progress:

"Alex is doing very good. The most recent tests show no cancer in her bone marrow. Thank you so much and please extend our thanks to all of the contributors. We were so very touched by such kindness. We will continue fighting for her life and praying for a miracle."

Alex is the daughter of Cliff and Regina Ellis of Portland, Oregon, and the great-granddaughter of Forrest and Helen Rathburn, who brought the sad story to our attention. All are members of our Association.

The checks sent in by our members came with several touching letters.

Bill and Louise Marsh sent their contribution "In memory of our eldest daughter Louise May Marsh who died in 1942 at the age of 17 months; in

*(Continued to page 46)*

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

**(703) 278-8512**

**Frank H. Rathbun**

**Editor & Publisher**

**ISSN 0737-7711**

## Past Issues Still Available

All issues, 1981-1993.....\$200  
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.



# Lansing Rathbun Kept Diary of Gold Rush Trip in 1854

**E**arly in 1854, in the fifth year of the great California Gold Rush, two Rathbun brothers in Michigan decided to "join the crowd" and try their luck in the California gold fields.

The two were Lansing Kendall Rathbun, 29, and his brother Amos, 24, sons of Charles<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Amos<sup>5-4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), of Grand Rapids, Mich. Lansing, known as Lant, had been married three years and was the father of a son Charles, about two. Amos was single.

Their father, Charles, had asked Lansing to keep a journal on his trip for historical purposes, and Lant agreed. In his letters home, to various family members, he copied down pages from his journal, so that all the family could read them and have a complete account of the trip.

Unfortunately, only one of his letters is known to have survived, and is now owned by your editor, a great-nephew of Lansing and Amos. We do not know what route they followed to California, but it was likely to Chicago, down the Mississippi to New Orleans, by ship to Panama, across Panama by land, and then by ship up the coast to San Francisco.

The letter (spelling and grammar corrected, with comments by your editor) follows:

"July 27, 1854. Marmaluke Hill, Eldorado County, California.

"Dear Sisters Elib, Suze and Pop (his three youngest sisters, Elizabeth, 19; Susan, 15, and probably Mary, known as Polly, then 23.)

"I take this way to write you all a word and to let you know I have not forgotten you, not even the old white-headed man Hugo (his youngest brother, Hugo, then 12, who was a towhead). Tell him he must have two pipes and tobacco when I come back for I have given up smoking entirely in this country. Cigars are two shillings apiece and whiskey two bits a suck,



*Lansing Kendall Rathbun pictured on New Year's Day, 1898, shortly after he had suffered a stroke and only four months before his death on April 30 at the age of 74.*

but they tell me it is higher on the other side of Jordan. So haul off your coats boys and roll up your sleeves, for this is a hard road to travel.

"Well, now to begin, I am here in the land of gold and the next thing is, how did I get here. Well, I will tell you. Father wanted a minute of the journey so I kept a day journal of all transactions and journey and have written part to him, part to GBR (his brother Gouveneur B. Rathbun) and part to Ann (his wife) and now I will begin at the place of leaving off and continue to you. Then by comparing the letters in rotation, you have it in full.

"I meant to have written to you before but did not get time, and my pen is not worth a damn. It is an old steel pen tied on a stick. Well, here goes for the voyage.

"I closed my last letter on Sunday, May 14, and I begin with Monday, May

15, aboard the Surnebada (Sierra Nevada?). A sea turtle and plenty of whitefish (to eat). Sailing off the cliffs of North America was next, and a fight in the cabin among the women—New Orleans women.

"Tuesday the 16th. High wind and rough sea. Caught a sea turtle. Almost out of provisions and coal.

"Wednesday the 17th. Threw over the stinking meat and wormy bread by a vote of the passengers. The captain said we could have no more but we formed a line all the way from the cook room to the cabin stairs and the minute anything was started for the cabin, some one would snatch it and pass it forward. After about an hour, the captain said he would have us a meal got up right, so that ended the snatch game. We reached the island of San Bernardino just at dusk.

"Thursday the 18th. A fight between a waiter and passenger. Another fight between a Yankee and five or six Irishmen. He would have whipped the pile of them if they had not been parted. His name is Marsh Chambers. Father knows him. He lives seven or eight miles south.

"Friday the 19th. Saw a sea seal and three whales. A fight between two passengers over a string (of fish?). Also a fight in the cabin. Waiters and passengers—New Orleansmen. The second mate got stabbed and died in about four hours. Same evening arrived in San Francisco.

"Saturday the 20th. Board \$2 a day or \$8 to \$14 a week. I weighed at night before supper and weighed 157 pounds.

"Sunday the 21st. Went out to the race course. Found Mike (a friend?). Saw a man shot down in a duel. They exchanged three shots before either hit and only ten paces apart. He dropped right down on his go-to-meeting and asked the doctor if he could

*(Continued to page 45)*

# Rathbone Joins Union Army: Captured by Confederates

In our last Historian, we covered the early career of Thomas Worthington Rathbone, born in 1824, the only son of Captain Jonathan Coffin<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (Coggeshall<sup>4</sup> Abraham<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He was married in 1846 and four years later joined the Gold Rush to California. He returned in December 1851, with little monetary profit but a wealth of experience.

Back home in Clermont County, Ohio, Thomas settled down with his wife Martha and their son Dwight, then nearly three. He was a farmer and surveyor, but seemed to prefer surveying to farming. He also had a streak of wanderlust, and traveled frequently.

In March, 1853, Martha had a daughter, named Mary, and called Molly. That same month, Thomas left for a lengthy trip to New England to research his ancestry and look up relatives. Most of his time was spent at Nantucket.

In 1855 came a son, Edward, and in 1857 another daughter, Elizabeth, called Lizzie.

Also in 1857, Thomas was off again to Nantucket, this time taking Martha with him and apparently leaving the children with relatives or friends. On their return to Ohio, Thomas decided that his growing family needed more room, so he purchased another farm with a large two-story house, at nearby Lindale. He named it Highland Place.

During these years, he was busy surveying and doing engineering work. He was elected in 1855 as county surveyor, a post he held for three years. In 1856, he designed a 170-foot bridge over the Little Miami River at Perrins' Mill, and in 1858 drew the plans for a double-span bridge of 158 feet over the same river at Miamiville.

In 1860, the family increased again with the birth of a third daughter, Sarah. But trouble was on the horizon. Abraham Lincoln was elected president that November, and three months



*Thomas W. Rathbone in his major's uniform during the Civil War.*

later seven southern states seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. In April 1861, Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumpter, a Federal naval base in the harbor of Charleston, S.C. Lincoln called out 75,000 state militia to quell the "rebellion," four more states joined the Confederacy, and the Civil War had begun.

Ohio was a solid Union state and Thomas W. Rathbone was a solid union supporter. He was also active in the local militia, as head of a cavalry unit.

On July 27, 1861, a group of the county's most prominent men met in a local school house to formally organize a troop of militia in response to Lincoln's call for troops. An election was held to choose officers, and Rathbone was unanimously named captain—an indication of his high standing in the community.

His unit was mustered into service within weeks as Company A of the

34th Ohio Regiment. They trained briefly at Camp Lucas, then at Camp Dennison, both in Ohio, and then in September the Regiment was ordered to West Virginia, formerly part of Virginia. The area had refused to follow Virginia into the Confederacy, and formed a new state.

Rathbone kept a diary during the war years, so we have a detailed outline of his activities. On Sept. 15, 1861, he wrote:

"At 4 p.m. we took the (railroad) cars for Cincinnati and arrived at dusk. Marched through the streets and then went on board the steamers."

On September 17, they disembarked at Gallipolis, Ohio, camped overnight on the town common, and then marched off for West Virginia. They had their "baptism of fire" on September 25, when the regiment encountered a Confederate force. Rathbone described the engagement in his diary:

"Our advance guards exchanged shot with the rebel scouts...the rebels fled. We continued on for three miles, occasionally exchanging shots with them...my company in advance. We came to the foot of a mountain...received fire from an enemy we could not see. The fire becoming pretty hot, the colonel ordered me to send eight men up the mountain to ascertain the position of the enemy.

"The enemy's fire was increasing, but lessened as my squad of eight men drove them some distance up the mountain. They did noble work ... as we afterward learned from the rebel colonel that he had 250 men.

Rathbone's company was then ordered to lead a charge against the Confederates and "in less than five minutes .... the enemy was routed," Rathbone wrote. "While we were burying our dead (three killed and seven wounded), a Rebel came up with a flag of truce, stating that the rebel Colonel



J.W. Davis was mortally wounded and was at a house one mile ahead.

"Our boys behaved like good and true soldiers and men," Rathbone wrote.

By August 1862, Rathbone had been promoted to major but was in poor health. He applied for a 20-day leave of absence, which was granted on September 29. Whatever his health problems were, they kept him out of action until May 1864, when he reenlisted as a captain and was put in command of Company A in the 153rd Ohio Infantry Regiment.

The regiment was sent to Virginia to guard the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad near the town of Paw Paw. Rathbone wrote in his diary:

"The country there was infected with horse thieves and we were ordered to go up the North River to arrest some horse thieves who had been committing depredations even over the Potomac in Maryland."

On July 3, near Harpers Ferry, Rathbone's company ran into a Confederate force and was trapped near the Potomac River. Rathbone wrote:

"Discovering that the enemy was throwing out skirmishers and entirely outflanking us, I ordered (my men) to retire toward the river, hoping to cross, but when we arrived I found deep water so that we could not safely cross, some of the men not being able to swim.

"I concluded to fight (and) we commenced firing and kept up as strong a fire as we could on the advancing cavalry until we were completely surrounded...to save my men, I surrendered."

Rathbone and his surviving 39 men were disarmed and marched off under guard.

"The rebels...commenced robbing us of everything, even taking hats, blouses and shoes. I protested at such treatment but could avail nothing, even with General Imboden (commander of the Confederate forces)."

Rathbone and his men were marched to Winchester, Virginia, then to Woodstock, where they were put in the county jail. Their cells were filled with vermin, Rathbone wrote, and the jailer told him, "It does me good to



*Thomas Worthington Rathbone and his wife Martha with their five daughters about 1882 in Kansas. Seated, from left, are Lena, Thomas and Martha. Standing, from left, are Fanny, Elizabeth, Sarah and Mary.*

stick abolitionist hirelings into lousy holes."

They were marched further south during the next several weeks and finally reached Macon, Georgia, where Rathbone spent some time in the prison at Camp Oglethorpe. The final leg of the journey took him to Charleston, South Carolina, where a hospital had been converted into a prison.

After several months there, Rathbone and several other officers were marched to the railroad station and put on a train bound for a prison in Columbia, S.C. He and four other officers decided to make an escape attempt on the way. They would wait until dark, and then jump out of the railroad car. He wrote in his diary:

"Train started at 12 noon. Reached Branchville at dusk and about 8 p.m. we took our everlasting leap." After they hit the ground, he wrote, "I was in no condition for knowing anything for a while. However, we gathered ourselves up...and started off on a country

road leading northward on our 500-mile tramp.

"We walked on til about 4 a.m. ... crossed a small river, selected the most secluded place and lay ourselves down for a short nap. Waked at daylight and moved into a swamp.

For the next three days they plodded onward, some 40 miles, moving mostly at night and sleeping during the day. On October 8, one of Rathbone's companions "went out to look around and never returned. We suppose he is lost," Rathbone wrote in his diary.

The next day, another of the group became ill, and decided to turn himself in to get treatment, Rathbone and his two remaining companions continued onward. They had taken about three pounds of bread when they leaped off the train, and it was now about gone. They ate raw corn when they came to cornfields.

But their freedom ended the next day. A little girl spotted them and ran

*(Continued to page 44)*

# Rathbun Minister, Born Blind; Has Full and Active Career

**M**ost of our Historian stories have been about Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns of the past—men and women who lived in bygone eras. This is the story of a very extraordinary cousin of today—Rev. Robert P. Rathbun, of Lowell, Mass., a blind minister who has refused to let his handicap interfere with his life.

Robert P. Rathbun was born Feb. 7, 1936, in Boston, Mass., the son of Paul M. and Edna (Milliken) Rathbun, and grandson of Charles<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> Joseph<sup>7</sup> Charles<sup>6</sup> Amos<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

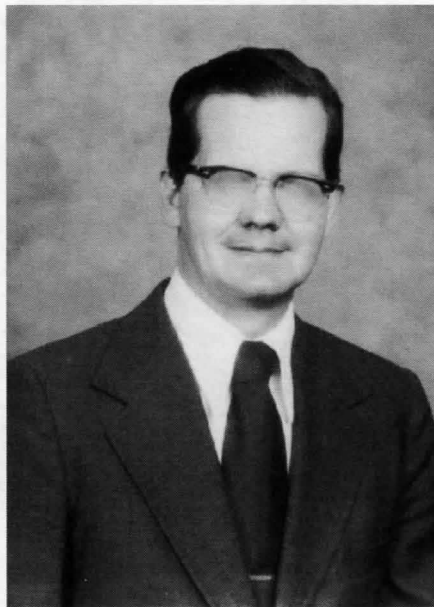
Robert was born with a severe case of glaucoma and only one-tenth of normal vision. He was declared legally blind when he was six months old. When he was 12, surgeons attempted a series of operations to improve his sight, but his retinas detached after the last surgery, and he lost what little sight he once had.

As a boy, he was sent to the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Mass., where he learned braille, mastered the typewriter, became a chess player, and was a very good student.

When he was seven, his grandmother Milliken had given him a 20-volume braille Bible, which he had begun to study at Perkins, but got through only the first volume.

After graduating from Perkins in 1956, he applied for admission to Tufts University at Medford, Mass., and was planning a career in either teaching or writing.

His plans changed that summer when he heard an evangelical preacher on the radio quoting from the stirring hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross." He was entranced by the words, "And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best, for a world of lost sinners was slain." He decided a short time later to become a minister, a decision he now calls the most important in his life.



*Rev. Robert Rathbun*

That fall, at Tufts University, he took advantage of his elective options and took as many courses in religion and theology as he could. He also got out his grandmother's braille Bible and read the remaining 19 volumes.

Rathbun soon developed some strong opinions on religion and on the Bible, and found himself in disagreement with some of his teachers. They considered the scriptures to be the work of men; he believed them to be the word of God.

On one of his final examinations, he figured out a way to pass the course without compromising his principles. He gave two answers to each question—one for the teacher to grade him on, based on what he had been taught, and the other expressing his true beliefs.

Rathbun received his bachelor of arts degree at Tufts in 1959, and enrolled that fall at Gordon Divinity School near Boston, where he was graduated in 1962 with a degree in theology.

Through the Baptist Association, he became a candidate for pastoral assignment, and preached at a number of churches throughout the state. One of his guest sermons was given at the Fifth Street Baptist Church at Lowell, Mass., which was looking for a minister. The Congregation and church leaders were strongly impressed with the young blind minister, and invited him to become their pastor in April 1963, at the age of 27.

Although he was young and single, Rathbun had decided that he would not date any of his congregation, but he soon made an exception. The church treasurer was 21-year-old Shirley Johnson, and the two became good friends. In July 1963, they went together to an outdoor Boston Pops concert. It was their first "date" but was not the last. By December, they were engaged to be married.

On June 21, 1964, Rathbun was officially ordained in ceremonies at the church, and four months later, in October, he and Shirley were married.

Looking back, Shirley Rathbun recalls that she knew it was a great challenge to marry a blind man.

"But I was confident that with the Lord's help we could have a happy and productive life together," she said, "And indeed we have. Bob is a truly extraordinary person."

Those who know Rathbun would agree. He has far more than compensated for his lack of sight. He types all his own correspondence. He walks unaided to his church five blocks away, using his white cane. He travels alone frequently to Boston, using the subway, having memorized all the stops. In the familiar surroundings of home and church, he bounds up and down stairs two at a time.

A tall man, six feet two, he has many outside interests. A chess player since childhood, he belongs to the U.S.

Braille Chess Association, and plays chess by mail with correspondents in the United States and internationally.

For a number of years, he coached a church softball team for boys, and last year his team won the league championship. He coached with the help of one of the boys, who sat beside him and described each play as it happened.

Rathbun is an avid sports fan and follows the major Boston teams—Red Sox in baseball, Bruins in hockey, Patriots in football and Celtics in basketball.

As another hobby, he collects old-time radio cassettes, including such early shows as Amos 'N Andy, Jack Benny and others. His collection numbers in the hundreds.

In other activities, Rathbun teaches bible classes in summer school at Monadnock in New Hampshire; conducts bi-weekly services at a local convalescent home, and serves on the board of directors of the Gospel Association for the Blind, a missionary organization in Florida. Last year, he flew to Florida to make recordings for radio broadcasts.

He is past president of the Lowell Association for the Blind and in 1981 was named as the Lowell area's most outstanding blind person.

There have been problems, of course. The worst came in January 1979 when his church was destroyed by fire, probably set by arsonists. Among the few items saved was Rathbun's precious 20-volume braille

Bible set.

After Rathbun directed a successful fund-raising drive, a new church was built on the same site. The congregation met in schools, other churches and members' homes until the new church was opened in December 1979.

Rev. Bob and Shirley have two sons—Daniel M., born in 1965, who was just married in May, and Gary, born in 1969, who is still single. After the Rathbuns joined our Association last year, Gary purchased all the back issues of our Historian as a gift to his parents.

Shirley says she has read every issue, cover to cover, and often reads stories aloud to her husband. Both are intensely interested in genealogy.

# Father and Son, Close Friends in Life, Died Four Hours Apart

This is the story of a Rathbun father and son who, though 30 years apart in age, were close friends all their lives, looked very much alike, and died only four hours apart in adjoining bedrooms.

The father was Philander<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Philander<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born in 1796 (see his biography in our Historian of July 1988, pages 44-45).

His son James was born in 1826, and as a young man became his father's partner in a general store at Hamburg, N.Y. James eventually moved to Randolph, N.Y., not too far from his father's home, and the two visited back and forth frequently.

In 1885, when Philander was 90 and living in Hamburg with his daughter Cynthia, he decided he wanted to spend the Christmas holidays in Randolph with James. Cynthia agreed to drive him there.

"I took my father to Randolph the 3rd Day of December to spend the holidays," she later wrote in the old Rathbone Family Historian. "I heard

often from him and (of) his good health."

Philander, in fact, was in better shape at 90 than his 60-year-old son James, who had a severe heart condition.

On the morning of Feb. 3, 1886, Cynthia received a wire from James, telling her that their father had fallen ill and was not expected to live. She went immediately to Randolph and found her father bedridden and in great pain.

The stress of the situation aggravated James' heart condition, and he too was put to bed, in a bedroom next to his father. The family did not tell the father about his son's illness.

By February 12, it was obvious that the end was near for Philander. He kept asking, "Why doesn't James come in to see me?" Nobody had the heart to tell the old man that his beloved son was laying near death in the next room.

Philander died at 5 a.m. on February 14, and James died four hours later at 9 a.m. An obituary in the Randolph newspaper told the story:

"This kind-hearted and beloved old man died, preceding his son James by only four hours. During the last 48 hours, he asked frequently, 'Why doesn't James come to see me?', little realizing how near his son was also to the border land.

"When the enemy was satisfied and the two apparently strong men lay side by side in the little room (probably the parlor), how beautiful they looked, and so near alike it was hard to realize that they were father and son."

Cynthia wrote in the old Historian: "Father had his senses to the last moment. He died a happy death, although he passed through great bodily suffering. My brother was failing very rapidly at the same time, but we had no idea that his death was also so near. Dear father passed away at five o'clock in the morning, and James at 9. It seemed as though father went first to open the way.

"Father had just had his ninetieth birthday and James was in his sixtieth year, but as they lay side by side, one would have thought them brothers."



# Rathbun Woman Gave Birth to Twenty Children

In past Historians, we have mentioned several male cousins who had 20 or more children, usually by two and sometimes three wives. This is the story of a Rathbun woman who had 20 children herself, over a 26-year period. They were all single births; no twins or triplets.

One of the babies was premature and lived only a few hours. Another died within a few months. Two were drowned as young boys. The other 16 are all still living.

The mother of this large clan was Inez Elizabeth (Rathbun) Hampson, born May 30, 1915, in Scituate, R.I., the oldest of four children born to Jessie Clifford<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> Seneca<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>) and his wife Edith May (Brown) Rathbun.

Inez was married to Harold Edward Hampson on May 9, 1931, three weeks before her 16th birthday. Hampson was 19.

Their first child, Harold Edward Jr., died at three months. Then came the following succession of births:

Edith May on Jan. 24, 1933.

Edward Clifford on April 4, 1934.

Harry Lee on June 8, 1935.

Donald Jesse on August 11, 1936.

Inez on Nov. 16, 1937.

Roy Charles on Dec. 11, 1938.

Norman William on Dec. 15, 1939.

Roland on Jan. 28, 1941.

Charles Raymond on June 10, 1943.

On April 17, 1944, came a premature baby who died within a few hours. Then came;

Annie Marie on May 7, 1945.

Jesse Clifford on May 6, 1946.

Robert Carl on August 7, 1947.

David Roger on July 10, 1948.

Linda Nancy on Jan. 29, 1950.

But 1950 also brought tragedy. On May 22, four of the brothers were playing on the shores of Lake Tiogue near their home in Coventry, R.I. Norman, 10, and Roland, 9, climbed onto a makeshift raft and floated out into the lake. When they had drifted out about

150 feet, the boys panicked and leaped into the water to swim ashore. They immediately began shouting for help.

On shore, two older brothers, Donald, 13, and Roy, 11, jumped into a rowboat and, using boards for oars, started out to rescue their younger brothers. The rowboat proved leaky, and started to sink. Don and Roy managed to swim to the raft the younger boys had left, but found no sign of them.

Another playmate had run home for help, and the two older brothers stayed huddled on the raft until police and rescue workers arrived to bring them ashore.

The bodies of Norman and Roland were found a short time later and recovered by divers, but frantic attempts to revive them proved fruitless. Both could swim, but authorities speculated that they had suffered cramps in the cold, choppy water.

The double tragedy hit the family very hard. The mother collapsed and a doctor was called for her. The other children even today are reluctant to discuss the incident.

The Hampsons' 17th child, Ruth Ellen, was born Jan. 12, 1952, followed by Judith Karen on May 31, 1953, and Carol Ann on July 28, 1954.

Then on April 16, 1957, came Marvin Lester, the 20th child, who was also to be the last. Inez was not quite 42.

The senior Hampson was a lace weaver in a local mill, and worked long and hard hours to support his big family. The older children served as baby sitters for the younger, but by the 1950s, the older ones were married, one by one, and the family began to shrink, rather than grow.

On Jan. 28, 1971, Inez Rathbun Hampson died at the age of 55, leaving a large and grieving family. All the children were there for the funeral, the last time they have all been together, although they stay in touch by letter

and telephone. Harold Edward Hampson died Feb. 14, 1977.

Today, the 16 surviving children have scattered throughout the United States. Some are still in Rhode Island. Others are in New York, Maine, Ohio, California, North Carolina, Illinois and Virginia.

Their granddaughter, Patti Hampson Barron is trying to compile a list of all the Hampson descendants, but has a long way to go. We thank her and her cousin Douglas E. Hampson for providing the data for this story.

(It cannot be determined how close Inez Rathbun Hampson came to a world record with 20 single, live births.)

The Guinness Book of World Records gives the record for bearing the most children to a Mrs. Fyodor Vassilet (1816-1872), who produced 69 children, but all in multiple births—10 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets and four sets of quadruplets. Not one single birth, but 27 separate pregnancies.

The record for fathering the most children is held by Mawlay Ismail Ibn-Shariff (1645-1727), an emperor of Morocco. His "harem" of wives produced 548 sons and 340 daughters, for a total of 888 children!

In modern time, an interesting record is held by Captain Wilson Kettle, who died in 1963 at the age of 102, leaving 11 children, 65 grandchildren, 201 great-grandchildren, and 305 great-great-grandchildren—a total of 582 living descendants.)

---

**WE THANK** the following cousins who have sent us clippings, pictures, family data and other material: Mildred Rathburn, Marlene Wilkinson, Janet Hays, Kay Nolte, Beverly Gillette, Fred C. Rathbun, Rob Rathbun, K. Haybron Adams, Shirley Rathbun, Ann Sanford, Frank R. Wright, Gerald Reser, Kathy Phillips, Betty Rathbun, Roberta Buckley, Jim Chivers, Peggy Sheldon, Edith Leppla, Helen M. Rathbun, Clair Cornell, Ethyl R. Grady, Janet and Grove Rathbun, Noel Wells, Edward Kipp, Dorothy Retzke, Anna Angelini, Helene Rathbun, Mary Vincent, Molly Ledebor, Marianne Richard, Beulah Power, Cherie Pinkerton, Jean Halden Walker, Beverly Glines, Phara Holdredge, LaVerne Rathbun.

# Genealogy: The Seventh Generation in America

**126. ISAAC H.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Amos<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born in November 1829 at German, N.Y. He was married Oct. 29, 1856, at Oxford, N.Y., to his cousin Adelia Rathbun, born in April 1840, daughter of Allen<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Allen<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>). They lived for many years at McDonough, N.Y. He was called a sawyer in 1862 but was later a miller. Isaac died on June 14, 1909 at Taylor, Cortland County, N.Y., and was buried at McDonough. Adelia died sometime after 1925, when she was living in Cincinnati, N.Y.

## CHILD

WILLARD, born about 1862; married Florence \_\_\_\_\_, and apparently had no children. He died August 5, 1896, at Greene, N.Y. Nothing more is known of Florence.

**127. CHARLES E.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Amos<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born in February 1844 at German, N.Y. He was married July 9, 1867, in Susquehanna County, Pa., to Mary Helen Kenyon, born Sept. 14, 1843, daughter of Solomon and Laura Kenyon. They lived at Pitcher, Greene and McDonough, N.Y., and were apparently separated by 1900, when he was living in McDonough and she in Cincinnati. There were no known children.

**128. PHILANDER P.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Lyman<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born July 6, 1823, at Oxford, N.Y. He left home at age 13 and worked on the Erie Canal. He was married July 20, 1845, at Oxford to Sarah Minerva Randall, born August 8, 1823, daughter of Joshua and Sarah A. (Soper) Randall. They moved to Clay in Jones

County, Iowa, where she died Nov. 11, 1857. Philander was married there on Oct. 20, 1859, to Margaret (Ackerman) Burrows, born about 1830, daughter of Elisha and Betsey (Brundage) Ackerman and widow of Reuben W. Burroughs, whom she had married July 18, 1852. They moved to Fayette County, Iowa, where she died Jan. 27, 1890, and he died April 3, 1892.

## CHILDREN

By Sarah

CHARLES JOSHUA, born April 17, 1846; married Sarah H. Ballard on March 22, 1871, in Jones County, Iowa, and possibly (2) on Sept. 23, 1875, in DeKalb County, Illinois, Susan Green. No known children.

CHARLOTTE, born May 5, 1848; married James Donelson about 1864.

MARY ELLEN, born Feb. 13, 1850; married Charles A. Leffingwell on Feb. 11, 1879. (She is possibly the Nellie Rathbun who married Michael Ryan on Nov. 3, 1866).

By Margaret

ALBERT B., born June 21, 1861; married Emma Hatch.

SUSAN, born about 1863; married Orson Cox on Nov. 9, 1880.

LYDIA JANE, born about 1864; died Dec. 1, 1874.

ALLIE, born July 20, 1870; died Oct. 29, 1870.

GEORGE, born April 22, 1872; married Elizabeth Christory.

**129. LYMAN<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN JR.** (Lyman<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born about 1827 in Oxford, N.Y. He was married about 1863 to Susan M. Crandall, born about 1844, daughter of Allington C. and Lorana Crandall. Lyman died March 25, 1884, at Preston, N.Y. Susan was married a

short time later to James H. Smith. Nothing more is known of her.

## CHILDREN

JAMES ADELBERT, born about 1864; he was married but his wife's name is unknown.

MARY E., born Nov. 23, 1867; married(?) C.D. Philley.

NETTIE, born about 1869; married Nelson Smith.

ALICE, born about 1875; no further data.

CHARLES S., born Jan. 18, 1876; married Bessie \_\_\_\_\_

**130. SIMEON G.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Lyman<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born about 1832 probably in Oxford, N.Y. He was married about 1856 to Rosanna J. \_\_\_\_\_, born in August 1832, parentage unknown. They moved a short time later to Shakopee, Scott County, Minn. By 1870 they were in Dakota County, Minn., where he died sometime between 1884 and 1900, when she was living in Dakota County with her daughter. Her death date is not known.

## CHILDREN

CHARLES G., born about 1858; alive in 1880; no further data.

BERTHA A., born in August 1865; unmarried in 1900.

**131. JOB<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born about 1817 in Licking County, Ohio. He moved to McLean County, Illinois, and was married there August 2, 1838, to Sophia Frankeberger, born about 1819, daughter of Jessie and Rosanna

(Continued to page 42)

(Continued from page 41)

Frankeberger. They lived for a time in DeWitt County, Illinois, then moved to Lodi, Wisc., where he died Feb. 17, 1859. Sophia was married on Jan. 1, 1862, to George Pratt. Nothing more is known of her.

## CHILDREN

SON, name unknown, born about 1839; died young.

SARAH O., born in 1841; married Joseph Bartholemew on July 20, 1858.

NANCY JANE, born about 1846; married Robert Marston Hopkins on Dec. 26, 1867.

**132. PARIS<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN JR.** (Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born about 1822 in Licking County, Ohio, and was married in McHenry County, Illinois, on Feb. 8, 1846, to Caroline Montgomery. Nothing more is known of him or her.

**133. ELIJAH S.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born about 1825 in Licking County, Ohio. He was married June 1, 1851, in DeWitt County, Illinois, to Catherine E. Irish, born in November 1834, possibly the daughter of Asa and Ada (Loughrey?) Irish. They moved to Lodi, Wisconsin, by 1860, and then by 1880 to Fillmore County, Neb. Elijah died there by 1900, when Catherine was living with their children. Her death date is not known.

## CHILDREN

JOHN C., born in November 1854; alive, unmarried, in 1900.

RUTH E., born about 1856; married Nathaniel A. Caulkins on Jan. 10, 1883.

PATTY, born about 1859; no further data.

CLARA A., born about 1866; no further data.

CELIA M., born about 1873; no further data.

QUEEN VICTORIA, born in August 1875; no further data.

**134. JAMES W.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born Sept. 12, 1838, in DeWitt County, Illinois. James served in the 88th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. He was married about 1862 to Julia Ann Green, born in May 1842, daughter of Milton Green. They moved to Lodi, Wisc., by 1865, and to Fayette County, Iowa by 1880. He died at Oelwein, Iowa, on May 23, 1893. Julia died Dec. 31, 1915.

## CHILDREN

RHODA ELNORA, born in 1863; married Henry Stebbins.

EDITH, born about 1865; died age two months.

CHARLES WESLEY, born April 1, 1866; married Florence Martindale.

ROBERT, born in 1869; died age four months.

JAMES CHESTER, born Jan. 9, 1874; married Sylvia Bird.

EARL A., born in March 1876; married Minnie Dresser.

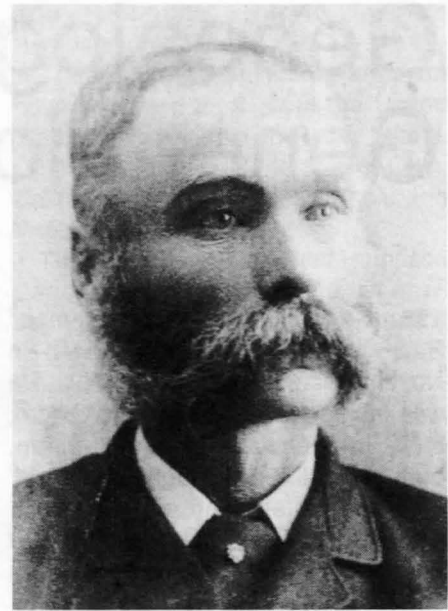
**135. ROBERT M. P.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born in December 1840 in DeWitt County, Illinois. He was married Nov. 16, 1862, in Lodi, Wisc., to Marietta Abigail Ashley, born in October 1845, possibly the daughter of Stephen H. and Nancy Ashley. They moved to Iowa in 1876, first to Adair County and then to Fayette County. He was a prosperous farmer and donated land for what became known as the Rathbun School in Scott Township, Fayette County. Marietta died in 1919 at Oelwein, Iowa and Robert died there in March 1920.

## CHILDREN

ETTA MAY, born in 1866; married Elmer Stebbins.

FRANK C., born Aug. 24, 1876; died unmarried in October 1965. He and his brother Louis operated a jewelry and optometry shop for many years in Oelwein.

LOUIS C., born March 16, 1884; married Lucille \_\_\_\_\_.



James Rathbun  
1838-1893

LULA A., (twin), born March 16, 1884; died unmarried in January 1972.

**136. JOHN W.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born about 1845 in DeWitt County, Illinois. He was married on Dec. 26, 1869, in Green Lake County, Wisconsin, to Ella V. Ashley, born in September 1850, daughter of Stephen H. and Nancy Ashley. She died a year later on Nov. 26, 1870, two weeks after childbirth. John was married again on July 2, 1873, to Emma L. Hidden, born about 1855, daughter of John T. and Sophia (Landers) Hidden. He and another man were burned to death on April 12, 1880, in Lodi, Wisconsin, when they were trying to remove furniture from a neighbor's burning home, and the chimney collapsed on them. Emma was married on Dec. 2, 1884, to William H. Cobden and nothing more is known of her.

## CHILDREN

By Ella

JOHN, born Nov. 12, 1870; died Sept. 5, 1871.



By Emma

LUETTA, born in 1874; alive in 1880; no further data.

**137. JOHN<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born May 7, 1817, in Licking County, Ohio. He was married there on Jan. 24, 1839, to Hannah Horn, born Jan. 20, 1820, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Wilken) Horn. They moved about 1860 to Crawford County, Illinois, but returned to Licking County, where he was a shoemaker in Newark. He died there Jan. 1, 1888. Hannah's death date is not known.

#### CHILDREN

SARAH, born in 1839; unmarried in 1860; no further data.

WILLIAM DAVID, born in April 1841; married Catherine Sheldon Osborne.

SAVILLA, born about 1843; alive in 1860; no further data.

ELIZABETH, born in February 1845; married George Netherton on Oct. 15, 1891.

NOAH, born about 1847; he was a tinner in Newark, and died there unmarried of tuberculosis on May 2, 1874.

CATHERINE R., born May 8, 1849; died unmarried of tuberculosis on Feb. 22, 1877.

EURIE(?), born about 1851; (a girl) unmarried in 1880.

MERCENA, born about 1853; died unmarried of tuberculosis on April 13, 1874.

FRANCIS A., born in December 1855; probably the Frank Rathbun who died March 5, 1922, in Porter County, Indiana. No known marriage.

LEONIDIS L., born in February 1857; married Margaret Viola Brown.

DOUGLAS, born about 1859; no further data.

ISAAC, born July 10, 1862; died Jan. 15, 1885, single of tuberculosis.

**138. COSTAIN<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born July 8, 1823, in Licking County, Ohio. He moved to Indiana in 1844 and was married there March 8, 1846, in



*Costain Rathbun and his wife, Andalusia, probably in the late 1860s.*

LaGrange County, to Andalusia Maria Gould, born May 29, 1825, daughter of Hezekiah and Ann (Sturge) Gould. Costain died in LaGrange County on Nov. 19, 1875. Andalusia died August 23, 1898, at the home of her son Maurice in Wexford County, Mich.

#### CHILDREN

SARAH C., born May 1, 1852; married Samuel Carnahan on Jan. 2, 1871.

WESLEY WEBSTER SMITH, born April 4, 1855; married Celia Potter on Dec. 6, 1881. She was born August 8, 1849, and died August 19, 1908. Wesley died Nov. 2, 1942. They had no children.

ELIZABETH, born Dec. 9, 1857; married Silas Huffman on Nov. 11, 1880.

MAURICE, born in March 1864; married Blanche Cowels.

**139. GEORGE<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born Feb. 6, 1827, in Licking County, Ohio, and was married about 1849 to Isabel \_\_\_\_\_, born Sept. 16, 1829, parentage unknown. They lived for a while in LaGrange County, Indiana, then by 1860 moved to Porter County, where he was living in 1880. They apparently moved shortly after that to Viola,

Audubon County, Iowa, where Isabel died May 17, 1882. He died sometime before 1900.

#### CHILDREN

NANCY, born about 1852; no further data.

FRANK, born about 1859; died May 30, 1917, in Hammond, Indiana; no known marriage.

**140. WILLIAM<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born Oct. 23, 1829, in Licking County, Ohio. He was married about 1855 to Ellen McCurdy, born about 1838, daughter of John McCurdy. William enlisted Dec. 8, 1863, in the 12th Indiana Cavalry during the Civil War, and was promoted to sergeant in 1865. Army records describe him as six feet one inch tall, with black hair and hazel eyes. Ellen died while he was away, on May 20, 1864, and local officials "farmed out" the children until he returned after the war. Family tradition says he "traded" his youngest daughter to an elderly bachelor when she was 15 in return for 80 acres of land. He was married again on June 25, 1872, to Emma Jane Lee, a divorcee with one son, Walter Lee, who took the name Walter Lee Rathbun. William died Oct. 14, 1879, at Correctionville, Iowa. Emma died in 1932.

#### CHILDREN

JOHN OSCAR, born July 4, 1856; married Dora Edwards.

CATHERINE, born about 1857; married Joseph Ferguson on Dec. 30, 1875.

CHARLES W., born about 1859; he married a widow with five children and died about 1927 in North Dakota.

BERTHA, born about 1860; married William Spotts about 1875, when she was reportedly traded for 80 acres of land.

HENRY BERT, born June 19, 1861; married Isabella May Herrington.

WILLIAM ELLSWORTH, born Sept. 20, 1863; married Jane Margaret Rose.

(Continued from page 37)

to tell her father. A short time later, four men, one with a shotgun, came and arrested them.

Rathbone ended up in a prison at Columbia, S.C., which had been his destination on the train. He spent the next six weeks plotting another escape. Several attempts failed, but on November 1, with four other officers, he slipped out of camp under cover of darkness, and was again on his way north.

Three days later, they found a small boat on the Congaree River, and ran down river with the current, heading for the Atlantic Ocean. On November 10, they reached the sea, and came across a detachment of U.S. Marines, a shore party from a naval vessel off shore on blockade duty. Their flight was over.

The ship's commander greeted them warmly, fed and clothed them, and transferred them to another ship which was heading for New York City. There Rathbone paid \$22 for tickets home on the Erie Railroad—via Elmira, N.Y., Erie, Pa., and then Cincinnati.

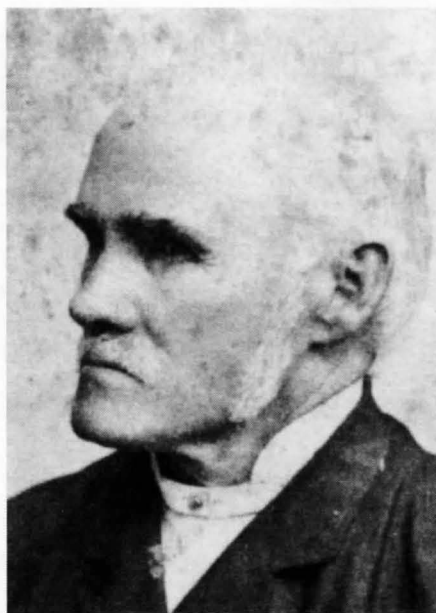
At 8 p.m. on Nov. 1, 1864, he arrived home to be greeted by his amazed but happy family.

"I found all well ... and our prayers answered. God be praised!" Those words of happiness ended his Civil War diary.

A year later, in 1865, he and Martha had their sixth child, a daughter named Lina Lorena, and called Rena. Then in 1872 came their seventh and final child, a girl named Fanny Maude.

Thomas was still surveying and engineering during these years. In 1866 he designed a bridge over Bull's Key Creek. He also did some traveling. In 1871 he visited his son Dwight in Kansas, and in 1872 he visited there again, this time taking Martha with him.

In 1875, 10-year-old Rena fell from a wagon and severely injured a leg. Her recovery was slow, and Thomas feared that she might become a permanent invalid. He decided that the Ohio River valley, with its frequent fevers and agues, was part of her problem. In 1879, he made the decision to move his family to the plains of Kansas. They settled in Morris County



Thomas W. Rathbone about 1870

near their son Dwight, and Thomas settled down to a life of farming.

He still did a lot of traveling. In 1887, he made a trip through Iowa, Illinois and Ohio. In 1888, he went to Columbus, Ohio, for the annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, the organization of Union soldiers.

Thomas and Martha traveled to the West Coast in 1890, attended the World's Fair in San Francisco and then went north to the Puget Sound area of Washington, which had become a state the previous year. Thomas had learned of a proposed new town to be called Fidaglio. He became enthused about the idea, and they remained there some time so that he could help develop plans for the new community.

On their return to Kansas, he talked often of Fidaglio and dreamed about the possibility of the whole family moving there. In 1893, he put his dreams into action. Several of his married children had decided to go. Rathbone was nearly 70, but he had not lost his wanderlust.

His granddaughter, Callie Rathbone (daughter of Dwight), later wrote of his decision:

"We knew Grandfather Rathbone would go. He was a gentleman farmer, a scholar and most of all an adventurer. He had left Grandmother Martha

all through their married life, to the California Gold Rush, the Civil War, any place rather than stay home and farm. There was still enough adventurer in Grandfather at age 70 to make him want to move west."

It took two months for Thomas to sell all his properties. Toward the end, he became so anxious that he traded one small house for a large pocket-watch.

Moving day finally came. There had been anguished decisions over which cherished possessions were to be taken. Thomas and Martha would be accompanied by their son Dwight; their daughters Lizzie and Fannie, with their spouses and children. The women spent days baking bread, cakes, cookies, hams and chickens for the trip. Jars of canned goods were packed by the dozen.

The group boarded a "tourist coach" on the Northern Pacific Railroad for the six-day trip to Seattle. Then they took a steamship for the trip down Puget Sound to their new home.

Unfortunately, the expected development failed to materialize. New settlers did not come, and property values dropped. Two years later, in 1895, Thomas and Martha returned to Kansas. Their daughters moved to California. Only son Dwight stayed in Washington.

In 1896, Thomas and Martha celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Most of their children and grandchildren were there.

In 1900, they grieved over the death of their daughter Elizabeth, who died of tuberculosis at age 47. She had lived near them, and was very close. It was a terrible shock for the aging couple.

Two years later, in 1902, Thomas made his final trip. He and Martha moved to California, to be near their daughters Rena and Fanny. They lived in Long Beach, where Thomas died on Nov. 29, 1908, at the age of 84. Martha died two weeks later on Dec. 15, aged 78. They had been married for 62 years.

(Most of the material for this story came from the 1977 book, "Rathbone Chronicles," written by our member Frances Collord, a descendant of Thomas and Martha.

(Continued from page 35)

live. The doc said no. He then said I forgive the man for shooting me, and then, said he, I want to be carried off the race course before I die for I do not want my folks to know I was killed on a race course. One man said, well one more of the damned lawyers out of the way is about all the consolation he got.

"Monday the 22nd. Left for Sacramento city on a boat, fare \$10.

"Tuesday the 23rd. Arrived at Sacramento at 4 o'clock in the morning. Left after dinner for the diggings. Found A. Campau (a Grand Rapids friend).

"Wednesday the 24th. Prospecting and writing.

"Thursday the 25th. A Chinaman shot down by a Frenchman. Nothing done about it.

"Saturday the 27th. Ely (a nickname for brother Amos?) and myself prospecting and found not much. I could put it all in a pocket and it wouldn't be much trouble at that.

"Sunday the 28th. Writing all day. \$500 has been offered for the Frenchman that shot the Chinaman.

"Monday the 29th. Went to Hong Kong.

"Tuesday the 30th. Went to Prairie City and to Lexington. Nothing more to mention until...

"Sunday, June 4th. Went over to see Hank Blain at the Macossing (?) River.

"Monday the 5th. A man was cut all to the devil in a gambling shop. Hank and I saw him the next day. And so goes California."

(The journal apparently ended at this point, but the letter continued:)

"I can tell you, I have seen some things since I left home, of all sorts and kinds. If anyone wants to see variety and human nature, they can't beat such a trip as to California.

"Did any of you go to the steamboat ride, and if so, how did it go off. Is there much horseback riding this summer? Lib, I want you to take Ann out horseback riding once a week, and Suse you can draw her in the cart for I expect Charley (his baby son) is getting too big to ride in the cart. He must take the buggy and take his grandmother out to town. Polly will likely

saddle the horses for you when you want to go.

"One thing Remember, and that is to write me as soon as you get this, and see if I can't get some (mail) from someone, for I have looked in vain for letters from Ann and you folks.

"I shall send a letter to Ann, to Lib, Suse and Pop, to Frank(?), to GBR, to Ben Rathbun (another brother), the Sargent Boys, E.E. Winsor, Dog Fox and Holmes (all apparently friends in Grand Rapids).

"Lib, I would like to have you learn Ann to sing and play on the piano. If you will, I will give you five dollars every time you teach her, and for every tune and song I will give you five more until I come home. Polly the same, but I expect Polly is in Chicago yet as I have no means of knowing.

"And then my writing is closed until I get an answer from someone, for I have written every two weeks since I left home and do not have a word yet. I will keep writing to Ann regular, for I told her I would.

"Well, my room is mostly covered and I want you all to take pattern by me and write it full, even if you write the same thing over and over. For it costs no more for a letter than a half a sheet half full. Goodbye. Your brother L.K. Rathbun."

Three weeks after Lant wrote the letter, tragedy struck. He and Amos were prospecting in the mountains near their base at Marmaluke Hill when a sudden storm arose, and they decided to head back.

There were two trails back. One followed a valley around the mountain. The other went up over the mountain and along narrow ledges overlooking the sharp drop below.

Lansing, the older, decided to take the longer, but safer, path around the mountain. Amos, younger and more rash, chose the shorter route over the top. They probably exchanged friendly banter over who would get home first.

Lansing arrived back at camp, expecting to find Amos waiting for him with a self-satisfied smile. But Amos had not returned, and still had not appeared as night fell.

Lansing and a search party went out and soon found Amos' body. He had slipped on one of the narrow ledges

and plunged to his death on the rocks below.

As Lansing told the story years later, "He broke every bone in his body, but his watch was still ticking."

"Uncle Lant" settled down on a farm in Paris Township near Grand Rapids, and lived to be 74. He died in 1898 after a stroke. He told the story of Amos' death to his nephew, Charles Rathbun (1870-1956), and he in turn told it to his nephew (your editor).

## Corrections

Minnie Ameretta Rathbun, daughter of Vortimer<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Lucius<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), had only one husband, Dominick Matusin (?spelling uncertain). (Historian of January 1994, page 13). Also, her brother William (Willie) died April 3, 1874, with "inflammation of the bowels and stomach." Our thanks to LaVerne E. Rathbun, a descendant of Vortimer.

Nelson Niles Rathbun was born Feb. 18, 1839, not April 13, 1841, as reported in our Historian of Oct. 1988, page 60. The child born on April 3 was Elijah, who was scalded to death on Oct. 8, 1842. Their father Nelson<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), was born June 19, 1805 (not June 13), and married Mercy Rider Nov. 14, 1831, not in September. Our thanks to Edward Kipp, a descendant of Nelson.

Mary Elizabeth Rathbun, daughter 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>), did not marry Lewis Edwards as her second husband. (Historian of July 1991, page 42.). The Mary who married Lewis Edwards was the daughter of John's son Uzal Rathbun. Our thanks to Jean Bollig.

Elisha<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Elisha<sup>5</sup> Elijah<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), had a son Elisha, born in 1831 who died in 1832, aged 11 months. (Historian of July 1992, page 46). Our thanks to Mary Champlin and David Rathbun.



(Continued from page 34)

gratitude for the superb medical care given our granddaughter who is a severe asthmatic, and in appreciation of the good health of our great-grandson, aged four, who could so easily have had a problem similar to Alexandra's. God bless you for bringing the situation to our attention through the Historian. This is what families are all about."

Susie Carter Baston wrote: The story of Alex touched me so much. We lost our beloved grandson, David Michael Hobbs, seven years ago from cancer...after terrible suffering from 'chemo' and everything the doctors thought would help. This donation is made in David's memory."

Clarice Fleharty commented: "Those who don't believe our health care system needs changes would feel differently should they find themselves in such a situation. Our prayers are with the Ellis family as they go through this traumatic experience."

David E. Rathbun and Mary Champlin sent a most generous contribution "in memory of Rosma Limbeck." Rosma, a long and active member of our Association, died of cancer last year.

Following is a complete list of the contributors:

James and Grace Chivers  
LaVerne and Marge Rathbun  
William F. and Louise Marsh  
Laverne and June Rathbun  
Terry and Dorothy Carnahan  
Joyce R. Graves  
Gaal and Mildred Rathburn  
Lowell and Beverly Gillette  
Juliette Rathbone Finch  
David and Keri A. Rathbun  
Princess Frush  
David Rathbun  
Mary Champlin  
Susie Carter Baston  
Fred C. and Shirley Rathbun  
Clarice Fleharty  
William I. Rathbun  
Edith Leppla  
Clair C. Cornell  
Susan D'Amore  
Frank and Dorothy Rathbun  
Katherine Coner  
Betty Drake

Louise Duffey  
Laura Burrows  
Marianne Richard  
Jim and JoAnn Adams  
Rev. Robert and Shirley Rathbun  
Jayne Rezin

Beulah Power  
Frank and Hazel Rathbun

We also contributed a \$95 check from the Rathbun Family Association.

## New Data

Sylvia Lusk, wife of Valentine<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), was born about 1761 (baptized Dec. 6, 1761, at New Britain, Conn.), the daughter of Thomas Lusk Jr. and Elizabeth (Goodrich) Lusk. She died in 1784, about 23 years old. (Historian of July 1983, page 44.) Our thanks to Marlene Wilkinson, a descendant.

Eliza (or Elizabeth?) Brown, wife of Anthony<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was born in April 1752, daughter of Charles and Mercy (Sweet) Brown. Eliza died in 1783 and Anthony then married her sister, Penelope, born Dec. 16, 1755. (Historian of July 1982, page 45). Information from Brown family bible records.

Rebecca Rathbun, daughter of Jeremiah<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Joseph<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was married September 21, 1800, to Nathan Crandall. Her husband, born in 1779, was killed in the war of 1812, and she later moved from Erie County, N.Y., to Sandusky County, Ohio, where her brother Jonathan was then living.

Joseph Pearson Rathbun, son of Joseph<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), died April 6, 1927. His wife, Margaret Butts, was born Jan. 31, 1848, the daughter of George and Maria (Zellers) Butts. She died May 23, 1907. Their daughter Effa married Orin F. Thornton, and their daughter Minnie married H. George Hass. Another son, George born about 1876, died young. (Historian of April 1994, page 29). Our thanks to new member Marianne Richard, a descendant.

John Lysander<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Joel<sup>5</sup> Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), married Ruth Ann Lower on March 31, 1841, in Westfield, N.Y. Ruth died September 23, 1851, at Pineville, La., as reported by Cooley. (Historian of Jan. 1991, page 13). Our thanks to Marcia Kittleson, who found the dates in early issues of the Mayfield (N.Y.) Sentinel.

George Harvey<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Oliver<sup>6</sup> Jeremiah<sup>5-4</sup> Joseph<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was born Nov. 1, 1879. He served in the U.S. Navy for many years, and died Oct. 12, 1964, apparently unmarried. He is buried in the National Cemetery at Fayetteville, Ark. (Historian of Oct. 1990, page 62). Our thanks to Kathy Phillips, who found his gravestone.

John A. Rathbun, son of Russell<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Simeon<sup>4</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), died Nov. 20, 1899, and is buried at Bemus Point, Cortland County, N.Y. (Historian of July 1989, page 44).

Nancy Brown, second wife of Hubbard Welch<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was probably the daughter of Mason and Frances Brown. (Historian of Jan. 1985, page 14). Her sister, Frances, married Job Beebe<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Elizabeth Treadway, second wife of Russell<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was the daughter of David and Sarah Treadway. (Historian of Jan. 1985, page 13). Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

# Obituaries

**DIED**—March 12, 1994, Arthur P. Burris, 88, at Sun City Center, Florida. He was the grandson of James S. Burris and Rebecca M.<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Gideon<sup>7-6</sup> Tibbetts<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He was a charter member of our Association and it was his suggestion that led to its organization in 1980. Art was a dedicated genealogist and was a valuable researcher in our early days. His wife, Marjorie, died in 1990. Survivors include two daughters and a son; several grandchildren, and a number of great-grandchildren.

**DIED**—May 23, 1994, Robert Lee Rathbun, 72, of Rimrock, Arizona, a long-time member of our Association. He was the son of Charles<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> James<sup>7-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Survivors include his wife, Gale; two sons, Robert Lee Jr. and Charles B. Rathbun; four grandchildren, and two brothers, Raymond and Dr. Speed Rathbun.

**DIED**—Feb. 17, 1994, Joseph Bulmer, 70, of Bothel, Washington. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, a member of our Association, who is the daughter of Lester Meisner and Pearl<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> Byron<sup>7</sup> James<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). There are also three children and several grandchildren.

**DIED**—May 9, 1994, Rufus West Rathbone, 89, at Roswell, N.M. He was the son of Rufus Cogswell<sup>8</sup> Rathbone (George<sup>7</sup> Rufus<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). He is survived by a daughter, Westa Joy Hunt; a granddaughter, Noel Wells, and a sister, Allie Mae Baum.

**DIED**—April 14, 1994, Lester William Crosslin Sr., 94. He is survived by his wife, Janetta (Rathbun) Crosslin, daughter of Emmet<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> Vortimer<sup>7</sup> Lucius<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>); a son Lester Jr., a grandson and two great-grandchildren.

**DIED**—Nov. 20, 1993, Mrs. Marge (Rathbun) Mommaerts, 66, of Green Bay, Wisconsin. A member of our Association for many years, she was the widow of Correl (Bud) Mommaerts, and the daughter of Fred Orval<sup>10</sup> Rathburn (James<sup>9</sup> Elijah<sup>8</sup> Sereno<sup>7</sup> Elijah<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is survived by her mother, Marie Rathburn; five sons and two daughters; nine grandchildren, and a brother Wesley Rathburn.

**DIED**—May 11, 1994, Ronald Power, 86, of Waterloo, Iowa. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Beulah (Rathbun) Powers, a member of our Association, and the daughter of Charles<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (James<sup>7</sup> Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>). He also leaves two daughters, eight grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

**DIED**—May 13, 1994, Jordan Terry Rathbun, infant son of Walter Dean and Lynn Diane Rathbun, and grandson of Terry and Diane Rathbun, all of Niantic, Conn. Terry is the son of Earl<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Everett<sup>9</sup> Jerome<sup>8</sup> Nathan<sup>7</sup> Robert<sup>6</sup> John<sup>5-4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**DIED**—April 4, 1994, Charles E. Auerbach, 75, at Texarkana, Ark. His wife, Donna Mae (Ann) Auerbach, who died in 1988, was the daughter of William Thomas<sup>9</sup> Rathburn (Joseph<sup>8</sup> Aaron<sup>7</sup> Joseph<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>). An Army veteran of World War II, he is survived by a step-daughter, Kathryn Phillips, a member of our Association.

**DIED**—June 17, 1994, Lisle Jay Rathburn, 86, at Selma, Oregon. He was the son of Emmet<sup>9</sup> Rathburn (George<sup>8</sup> Vortimer<sup>7</sup> Lucius<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>). Survivors include a son, Robert; a daughter-in-law Norma Rathburn with whom he lived; several grandchildren; two sisters, Janetta Crosslin and Virginia Willett, and two brothers, Ferris and LaVerne Rathburn, a member of our Association.

**DIED**—March 27, 1994, Fannie J. (Rathbun) Capwell, 74, of West Greenwich, R.I. She was the daughter of Leonard<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>8</sup> John<sup>7-6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>). Survivors include her husband, George H. Capwell; two daughters; four brothers, Lester, Leonard, Gilbert and Harold Rathbun; six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**DIED**—March 21, 1994, Lunette Bryant Rathbun, 71, at Richmond, Virginia. Formerly of Newport, N.Y., she was the wife of Wilbur<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Arthur<sup>8</sup> Adelbert<sup>7</sup> Samuel<sup>6</sup> Wilbur<sup>5</sup> Jeremiah<sup>4</sup> Joseph<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). A retired teacher and librarian, she is survived by a daughter, Pamela Bryant; two sons, Gary and David Rathbun, and six grandchildren.

**DIED**—May 7, 1994, Dorothy Sherrard Rathbun, 83, of Silver Lake, Ohio. She was the widow of Alan<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Norton<sup>8</sup> Saxton<sup>7</sup> Chaplin<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), who died last year. She is survived by a son, Alan; two daughters, Doanne Brown and Julie Miller, and five grandchildren.

**DIED**—Dec. 2, 1993, Estelle Rathbun, 87, at Green Springs, Ohio. She was the widow of Irvin<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Edwin<sup>9</sup> Norton<sup>8</sup> Saxton<sup>7</sup> Chaplin<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), who died in 1988. She is survived by two daughters, Ann Warner and Shirlee Liskovec; one grandchild; two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**DIED**—September 1993, Howard Rathburn, 84, of Tucson, Arizona. He was the son of Clarence<sup>8</sup> Rathburn (George<sup>7</sup> Ruel<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>). Survivors include his wife, Grace, and two brothers, Homer and Harold Rathburn.

**DIED**—Dec. 24, 1993, Frank C. Rathburn, 51, of Bluffton, Ohio, who was killed in a Christmas Eve traffic accident near his home. He is survived by his wife Sandy, and two daughters, Gena and Monica Rathburn. We do not know his identity. Can anyone help?

# People

**MARY ELLEN CLAYPOOL** and John Eliot Wright were married Feb. 14, 1994, at Lake Forest, Illinois. Mary Ellen, a member of our Association, is the daughter of Nelson Joseph McMahon and Louise Cecelia Rathbun, daughter of Kenneth<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Winfield<sup>8</sup> Carlton<sup>7</sup> Demarcus<sup>6</sup> Solomon<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**DANIEL MARK RATHBUN** and Carol Ann Nash were married May 28, 1994, in Damariscotta, Maine. Daniel is the son of our members Rev. Robert and Shirley Rathbun of Lowell, Mass. Rev. Robert is the son of Paul<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>9</sup> George<sup>8</sup> Joseph<sup>7</sup> Charles<sup>6</sup> Amos<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**RANDY RATHBUN**, U.S. District Attorney for the state of Kansas, has indicted the mayor of Kansas City and two other city officials on bribery and other charges. Randy is the son of Ronald<sup>11</sup> Rathbun (Cleo<sup>10</sup> Melancthon<sup>9</sup> George<sup>8</sup> Rowland<sup>7</sup> Acors<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**RICHARD ANGELINI**, son of Michael and Alice Angelini and grandson of Orlando and Anna Angelini, all of Somerset, Mass., recently received the Eagle Scout Award, the Boy Scouts' highest award. He was also elected to the Order of The Arrow, the Boy Scout camping brotherhood. Richard has been a den chief, patrol leader and junior assistant scout leader. He is currently an honors student at the University of Massachusetts, in Dartmouth, majoring in electrical engineering. His parents and grandparents are members of our Association. Anna Angelini is the daughter of Orson<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Henry<sup>8</sup> Valentine<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Tibbetts<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**DEBBIE RATHBUN** was the 1994 valedictorian for the graduating class of Center Point High School in Urbana, Iowa. We do not know her identity. Can anyone help?

**WILLIAM (BILL) RATHBUN** of Toledo, Ohio, has co-authored a new book, "Tennis in Toledo." He has been a prominent tennis player and official for more than 50 years. His co-author is Sam Allen, past president of the Toledo Tennis Club. Rathbun is the son of George<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Edward<sup>8</sup> Solomon<sup>7</sup> Acors<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**RONALD RATHBUN** and his wife Mildred of Springfield, Mo., attended a marketing conference in London, England, from May 18-25, sponsored by the American National Insurance Company. Ron is one of the company's divisional vice-presidents. He is the son of our member Paul Rathbun and the late Zona Rathbun. Paul is the son of Frederick<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>).

**WILLIAM DRAKE** participated last fall at Caldwell, Kansas, in the 100th anniversary of the Cherokee Strip "land run" of 1894, when thousands of settlers poured into Oklahoma from Kansas to claim land. William is the grandson of our member Betty Drake, and a great-great-grandson of Edwin Fillmore Rathbun, who participated in the run. Edwin (1855-1922) was the son of Ebenezer<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Ebenezer<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). His daughter Mary Rathbun married Merton C. Drake, father of Betty's late husband, Clifford Drake.

**DANIEL C. RATHBUN** and Tracy Ann Crotts are to be married Sept. 17 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He is the son of Daniel D. Rathbun of Central City, Iowa. We do not know their identity. Can anyone help?

Seeking information on George<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Truman<sup>6</sup> Ashley<sup>5</sup> Isaiah<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). He and his wife Aurelia Hopkins reportedly operated a tavern about 1875-85 at Grand River and Eight Mile roads near Detroit, Mich. That intersection is now the site of the historic Botsford Inn. Would like any data about them or their tavern.

## New Members

Ned Rathbone Hickel  
Baton Rouge, La.

Edward Kipp  
Orleans, Ontario

Kay Carpenter Nolte  
Germantown, Tenn.

Cherie Pinkerton  
Roswell, Georgia

Marianne Richard  
Ocala, Florida

In our last Historian, we listed the obituary of an unidentified Mary (Rathbun) Bishop, and reported that she died on Feb. 5, 1994. We have since learned that she died on Jan. 8, and was the daughter of Leland<sup>10</sup> Rathbone (Leland<sup>9</sup> Albert<sup>8</sup> Erastus<sup>7</sup> Abel<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Her husband Col. Bertram J. Bishop died in 1987. She is survived by a brother, Robert Rathbone, and a sister, Margaret Sheldon, a member of our Association.

Also in the last Historian obituaries, there was an error in the ancestry of Nancy (Rathbun) Wemmer, widow of Major Jack H. Wemmer. Nancy is the daughter of Walter<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Edward<sup>7</sup> Charles<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5</sup> Amos<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**BORN**—April 14, 1994, Austin Michael Bundy, son of Vern and Donna (Rathbun) Bundy and grandson of our member Marvin T. Rathbun. Marvin is the son of Thomas<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>3-1</sup>).

**BORN**—March 27, 1994, Steven Cady Hanson, son of Brad and Susan Hanson, grandson of Charles and Cheryl (Reser) Hatfield, and great-grandson of our members Gerald and Donis Reser. Gerald is the son of Joseph Reser and Ruby Fern<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Millard<sup>7</sup> William<sup>6</sup> Ami<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).