

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
**FAMILY
HISTORIAN**



Willett Job Rathbun
(Died in Civil War)

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

Letter from the Editor

This is probably the most difficult letter I have ever written. After long and agonizing consideration, I have decided that after 16 years, this is the final issue of the Historian.

Many members have written and urged me to continue the magazine, but many also expressed understanding at my decision.

Little did I dream those 16 years ago that we would travel this far and this long together. But we did, and what a wonderful journey it has been! Because of the Historian, I think we have all gained real understanding into the lives and characters of our ancestors and early cousins. For we do indeed descend from honorable and distinguished men and women of whom we can be justly proud. Let us hope our descendants will say the same of us!

Although the Historian is ending, the Rathbun Family Association will continue. I still intend to continue researching and recording our family history and would still like to receive genealogical information—obituaries, birth and marriage notices, and any other family data.

I will also be continuing my research into allied families in early Block Island and Newport, R.I.

Looking back, I am very proud of what we have accomplished during the past 16 years. In addition to publishing 60 issues of the Historian, we held six family reunions, organized a "roots" tour to England, and placed an imposing monument to our immigrant ancestors in the Block Island Cemetery.

In the Historian, we have recorded the first six generations of our family in America, and part of the seventh generation. We have corrected the many errors that we found in John C. Cooley's 1898 Rathbone Genealogy. We have published detailed stories on scores of Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns, both past and present. We have printed hundreds of pictures of early cousins, many dating back a century or more.

All this was accomplished only with the help of our members and others who sent in their family records and pictures, and who conducted research in libraries, city halls, probate offices, cemeteries and other sources throughout the country.

The task of compiling our family's history is far from finished. There is much more to be done, especially in the later generations, and on the descendants of Rathbun, Rathbone and Rathburn daughters. Publication of a complete genealogy must be left to some future genealogist.

In most of the Historians over the years, I have listed and thanked the many members who have contributed data and pictures for me to use. From these lists, future readers will see the names of those who were most active in this regard.

Some members, however, have been especially helpful, and deserve special thanks. Robert B. (Rob) Rathbun heads the list, for he has been my most active and dependable researcher ever since we founded the Association. He will be working with me in the coming years in continuing to update the family records.

Others who rate special mention include Frank E. Rathbun, Mildred Rathbun, Fred E. Rathbun, Lauren

Landis, Haybron Adams, David E. Rathbun, Helen E. Rathbun, John Bowen, Beverly Gillette, Shirley Rathbun, Clair Cornell, Jan and Grove Rathbun, and the late Rosma Limbeck and Art Burris. And special thanks to Margaret Dale, who indexed Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy and also the first five years of our Historian, and Dr. Earl Antes, who has indexed the past eleven years.


And of course, I must mention the never-ending support and help of my beloved wife Hazel. She has played a role in every facet of the operation, and it was she who was almost entirely responsible for our six successful national reunions.

Our Historian set a new standard for family publications. Most of them fall into the category of "newsletters," often mimeographed. Ours has been a typeset, professionally printed magazine, sent by first-class mail. As a former journalist, I took special pride in high-quality research, writing, editing and printing. I must admit that typographical errors sometimes slipped by me, but all errors, when detected, have been corrected in later issues.

We decided early that we would not include footnotes and cite detailed sources for our genealogical records. The Historian was to be a family magazine, not purely a genealogical publication. Each Historian has included a mixture of genealogical data, stories on interesting relatives (usually from the past), and sections on births, marriages, deaths and activities of current family members.

This combination proved successful, as shown by our steady membership growth over the years. Several other family associations have adopted the Historian format.

I want to thank you all for your continued support and assistance over the years, and Hazel and I both send our heartfelt best wishes for health and happiness in the future.



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Editor & Publisher

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Historian Stories Give Window to Family's Past

Future genealogists and family researchers will find a goldmine of information in our Historians on Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns who have lived over the past three centuries.

From John and Margaret Rathbun, our immigrant ancestors in the 1600s, to their descendants down to the 1900s, our stories and articles present a colorful picture of many interesting and exciting lives.

In our Historian will be found tales of farmers, fishermen, frontiersmen, financiers and Forty-Niners; of merchants, ministers and miners; of doctors, lawyers, cowboys, buffalo hunters, Indian fighters, congressmen, mayors, judges and generals. There is a famous Navy captain and a lieutenant-governor. There have been a few murderers, robbers and forgers.

Our family members over the years are a real cross section of America and its people.

Following is a partial list of Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns whose lives have been portrayed in our Historian.

CAPTAIN JOHN PECK RATHBUN, the most successful captain in the Revolutionary Navy, who died in an English Prison, but who is not deemed worthy of a memorial stamp by the U.S. Postal Service.

REV. VALENTINE RATHBUN, a prominent Revolutionary War leader in Massachusetts and an early Baptist minister.

REV. JOHN RATHBUN, Valentine's brother, also a Baptist preacher who lived 97 years and saw our Nation grow from a small group of English colonies to a world power.

JOHN RATHBONE, son of Rev. John, who began life as a small town storekeeper in Connecticut, became a wealthy and powerful merchant in New York City, and helped finance the Erie Canal.

JONATHAN RATHBUN, one of the few Revolutionary War soldiers who wrote a book about his experiences.

CAPTAIN JONATHAN COFFIN RATHBONE, who sailed the seven seas for many years as a merchant skipper, and then became one of the early pioneers of frontier Ohio.

BENJAMIN RATHBUN, an ambitious and far-sighted businessman who became the most powerful man in Buffalo, N.Y., developed the city of Niagara Falls, and then was ruined in the Depression of 1837. He served a prison term for forgery, but denied his guilt to the day he died.

CONGRESSMAN GEORGE RATHBUN, who engaged in one of the first fistfights on the floor of the House of Representatives after another member called him a liar.

GIDEON HOXSIE RATHBUN, an early Pony Express rider, who died on his route after being trapped in a blizzard.

HARLEY C. RATHBURN, who ran away from home as a boy to become a cowboy, hunter and trapper in the Far West, and later rode with Buffalo Bill Cody.

MAJOR HENRY REED RATHBONE, who was seated beside President Abraham Lincoln when Lincoln was assassinated in 1865.

CONGRESSMAN HENRY RIGGS RATHBONE, son of Major Rathbone, who became our family's second member of Congress.

SARAH RATHBUN SMITH, who accompanied her soldier husband, Col. Benjamin Smith, through the entire Civil War.

DR. MARY JANE RATHBUN, who broke the "glass ceiling" early in the 1900s to become a world-famous scientist.

RICHARD RATHBUN, Mary Jane's brother, who was head of the Smithsonian Institution and who helped launch the Wright Brothers' development of the airplane.

JUSTUS HENRY RATHBONE, founder of the Knights of Pythias, one of the world's largest fraternal organizations a century ago.

ABEL RATHBONE CORBIN, political lobbyist who married a sister of Ulysses S. Grant and played a major role in the "Black Friday" gold scandal of 1869.

OSCAR J. RATHBUN, prominent banker and businessman who became lieutenant-governor of Rhode Island.

FREDERICK GEORGE RATHBUN, a leading musical composer of the 1890s.

JARED LEWIS RATHBONE, who founded a stove manufacturing empire, and served as mayor of Albany, N.Y.

JOHN FINLEY RATHBONE, Jared's nephew, a Civil War general who brought the first computer to America in 1855.

WILLIAM PALMER RATHBONE, founder of a West Virginia dynasty whose members were pioneers of the oil industry.

MONROE JACKSON RATHBONE, William's great-grandson, who became head of the Standard Oil Company in its heyday.

Past Issues Still Available

All issues, 1981-1996 \$237

All issues for any single year from 1983 to 1995 are available at \$15 per year. Single copies of any issue are \$4 each (\$6 for 1995 and 1996).

Boy Soldier Dies at 19: Letters Kept by Family

One of our many cousins who died in the Civil War was Willett Job Rathbun, who enlisted in the Union Army at 17, and died less than two years later of yellow fever, aged 19. His letters home were carefully kept by his parents and are still preserved by the family. They show Willett, known as Willie, as a truly exceptional young man—clean-cut, religious, generous and of a high moral character. His parents must have been really proud of him.

Willett Job Rathbun was born Nov. 26, 1844, at New Haven, New York, the son of Job⁶ Rathbun (Gideon⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and his wife Electa A. Halladay. He was raised at nearby Parish, where his parents moved when Willett was small.

Willett was 16 when the war began in 1861, and a year later, age 17, he enlisted in Co. K of the 110th N.Y. Volunteer Infantry. For the next two years, he wrote regularly to his family, signing himself, "Your Affectionate Son." His letters are well-written and articulate, although his spelling is somewhat erratic (it is corrected in the following excerpts).

He apparently enlisted in late summer, and by September he was at Camp Patterson near Baltimore, Maryland. On Oct. 2, he wrote:

"I have been to the city and had my likeness taken." (The picture which appears on our front cover and with this story). He described his tentmates as "good, pious boys, so there is no profane words used in our tent."

His religious nature is shown in the letter: "We got a present of a testament and a song book ... we have a prayer meeting every night and preaching every Sunday."

The regiment was sent in November to Fortress Monroe in Virginia, where he wrote on Nov. 27:

"A great many of our company has got the granders (jaundice?). Their eyes and face turn yellow and they are pretty sick ... I haven't been sick an hour yet and I hope that I will not be sick while I am in the service. We got paid Monday. I got fifteen dollars and sixty cents, and I have sent you fifteen dollars ... I will do the best I can for you and send you all I can. The less money anyone has, the better one is



*Willett Job Rathbun
(1844-1864)*

off, for there is so much trash around, he will keep getting something all the time and such stuff is worse than nothing.

"I can get along as well as any of them. When I left home to go off, alone as you might say, without anyone to look after me or care for me, I left with a strong determination ... to stand right up in all cases and do my duty and do the best I could, not only for my country but for you and myself too, and to shun all bad habits. I have kept up that

determination—so that when I come home I can hold my head up and not be ashamed of what I have done. Some of the boys keep all their money and buy everything they see, so in a few weeks, they won't have any more money than I do."

On Dec. 4, 1862, the regiment boarded a troopship and set sail to the southward along the Atlantic coast. By Christmas, they were in the Gulf of Mexico and spent the holiday on a small island. On Dec. 26, they sailed up the Mississippi River, past New Orleans, and disembarked at Carrolltown, about seven miles north of the city.

Sickness almost immediately became a problem. One of his fellow soldiers, Ziba Whitney, a former neighbor in Parish, died in January, Willett wrote his parents:

"The day before Ziba died, he wrote a letter to his folks that he was getting better ... 22 has died out of our regiment and there are a good many sick now."

Later, he wrote: "I am well with the exception of a cold and just had the measles. I have got quite a bad cough and touch of the summer complaint (probably dysentery)."

In another letter, he asked: Do Jesse and Homer miss me? (His two young brothers, then six and three). Kiss them for me."

He continued to assure his parents that they need not worry about him:

"Dear Father, he wrote. "You need not be afraid of my getting into bad habits, for I hate tobacco and whiskey and swearing worse and worse each day."

After spending over a year in Louisiana, the regiment was sent early in 1864 to Key West, Florida, and Willett was still having health problems.

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List of Cousins in Union Forces

(Continued from last issue)

LEVI RATHBUN (1839-1901), son of Orsemus⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵⁻³ Samuel² John¹). He enlisted June 10, 1861, in Co. A of the Third Mich. Infantry and served until May 27, 1862.

LEWIS DAVID RATHBURN (1842-1928), son of Lewis⁶ Rathburn (David⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Probably the David Rathbun who enlisted Dec. 1, 1861, in Co. C of the 11th Ohio Cavalry and served until April 1, 1865. He was pensioned in 1902.

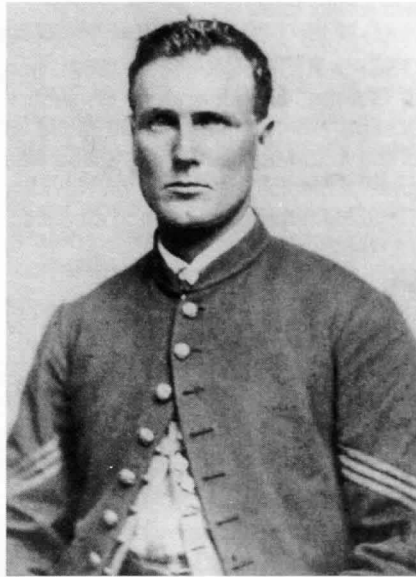
LUCIUS B. RATHBUN (1843-1884), son of Justin Rathbun (unidentified). He served from August 8, 1862 until June 3, 1865, in Co. F of the 21st Conn. Infantry.

MORTIMER LORD RATHBUN (1843-1862), son of Guy⁶ Rathbun (Ami⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). He served with Co. D of the 12th Illinois Infantry and died of disease April 24, 1862, at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn.

MATTHEW RATHBUN (1835-1865), son of Matthew⁶ Rathbun (Solomon⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted July 18, 1862, in Co. A of the 88th Indiana Infantry, and was promoted to corporal and then sergeant. He was wounded in action March 19, 1865, sent to a hospital in Newburn, N.C. and died there April 21.

MARVIN M. RATHBURN (1844-1863), son of Lewis⁶ Rathburn (David⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted Sept. 12, 1862, in Co. 1 of the Seventh Ohio Infantry, and died April 13, 1863, at Lexington, Kentucky, after four weeks' illness, described as "congestion of the brain."

MELVIN D. RATHBUN (1845-by 1877), son of Isaiah⁶ Rathbun (Ashley⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted in 1865 in the 22nd



Nahum Rathbun, sergeant in the 12th Wisconsin Infantry.

Michigan Infantry with his brother Myron.

MILTON RATHBUN (1824-1864), ancestry unknown (possibly a Rathvon, but called Rathbun in all his records). He enlisted Feb. 19, 1864, in Co. K of the 116th Pa. Infantry, and was killed in action May 12, 1864, at Spotsylvania Court House. (He apparently had two brothers who also served – Jacob, and John who reportedly died in Andersonville Prison.)

MYRON COBB RATHBUN (1847-1886), son of Isaiah⁶ Rathbun (Ashley⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted March 5, 1865, in Co. H of the 29th Mich. Infantry. In August that year, he fell 18 feet from a roof while shingling a barracks at Murfreesboro, Tenn. He spent several weeks in a hospital, and was discharged Sept. 6.

NAHUM F. RATHBUN (1831-1912), son of Updike⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He served as a sergeant from 1861 to



Nathan Rathbun, died of wounds and typhoid fever.

1865 in Co. G of the 12th Wisc. Infantry.

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE RATHBUN (1848-1901), son of Ezra⁶ Rathbun (Jonathan⁵ Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹). He enlisted April 26, 1864, in Co. K of the 135th Illinois Infantry and served five months. He enlisted again Feb. 6, 1865, in Co. E of the 149th Illinois Infantry and served until Jan 27, 1866.

NATHAN RATHBUN (1831-1863), son of Robert⁶ Rathbun (John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He enlisted August 12, 1862, in Co. H of the Seventh R.I. Infantry, and was wounded in his right arm in action July 13, 1863, at Jackson, Miss. He died of his wounds, and typhoid fever, August 22, 1863, in a military hospital at Covington, Ky.

NATHAN WARREN RATHBUN (1827-1879), son of Luther⁶ Rathbun (Samuel⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹). He served as an ensign in the U.S. Navy.

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NYRUM RATHBUN (1841-1906), son of Henry⁶ Rathbun (Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻² John¹). He served from 1862 to 1865 in the First N.Y. Dragoons.

OLIVER J. RATHBUN (1835-1864), son of James⁶ Rathbun (Asa⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ Samuel² John¹). He served with Co. D of the 25th Wisc. Infantry and died Feb. 10, 1864, in Tennessee. He was buried at Chattanooga.

OLIVER H. RATHBUN (1833-1863), son of Fernando⁶ Rathbun (Daniel⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). He enlisted April 6, 1862, in Co. G of the Sixth Michigan Cavalry and died of typhoid fever March 15, 1863, at Falmouth, Va.

OLIVER P. RATHBUN (1833-1916), son of Jeremiah⁵ Rathbun (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹). He enlisted Oct. 14, 1861, in Co. C of the Second Colorado Infantry, later transferred to the First Colorado Cavalry, and served until November 1865.

OLIVER RATHBUN (1840-1904), son of Oliver⁷ Rathbun (Gideon⁶ Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹). We have found no record of his service, but he was granted a pension for Civil War service.

ORAMEL RATHBUN (1840-1912), son of Justin Rathbun, whose ancestry is unknown. He enlisted Oct. 20, 1862, in Co. H of the 26th Conn. Cavalry and was shot in the right leg during a charge on June 14, 1863, at Port Hudson, La. He was injured again on July 28, 1865, when his horse fell on him during action at the Wilderness Battle.

ORSEMUS RATHBUN (1831-1896), son of Samuel⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵⁻³ Samuel² John¹). He enlisted May 18, 1861, in Co. E of the 34th N.Y. Infantry, and was shot in the chest and left hand May 31, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Va. He was discharged that September, and reenlisted July 10, 1863, in the Second N.Y. Cavalry and was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was discharged Nov. 8, 1865.

OSCAR J. RATHBUN (1827-1865), son of Ashley⁶ Rathbun (Ashley⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted March 15, 1865, in Co. D of the Ninth Michigan Infantry, and was discharged September 25 with chronic diarrhea. He returned home and died two weeks later.

OSCAR RATHBUN (1836-1862), son of George⁵ Rathbun (Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). He enlisted in Co. B of the 16th Michigan Infantry, and was given a medical discharge on Nov. 24, 1862. He returned home and died Dec. 12, 1862.

PARIS RATHBUN (1829-1902), son of Clark⁶ Rathbun (Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted in 1863 in Co. L of the 14th N.Y. Heavy Artillery, but deserted on August 25, 1864. He was arrested in Maryland, court-martialed and fined, and discharged on August 12, 1865.

PARIS RATHBUN (1822-??), son of (?) Paris⁶ Rathbun (Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted August 9, 1862, in an Illinois regiment. (This could be the preceding Paris Rathbun.)

PHILIP CLARK RATHBUN (1844-1923), son of John⁷ Rathbun (Amos⁶ Jonathan⁵ John⁴⁻¹). He enlisted Feb. 2, 1864, in Co. F of the 38th Ohio Infantry and served until July 5, 1865.

RANDOLPH L. RATHBUN (1838-1922), son of Charles⁵ Rathbun (Simeon⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). He enlisted August 31, 1864, in Co. E of the 189th N.Y. Infantry and served until March 30, 1865.

REI RATHBUN (1849-1909), son of Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted Feb. 22, 1865, aged 16, in the 191st Ohio Infantry, and served during the closing months of the war.

REUBEN RATHBUN (1843-1863), son of Rufus⁷ Rathbun (Isaac⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted August 2, 1862, in Co. B of the 18th Mich. Infantry and died of typhoid fever May 7, 1863, at Nashville, Tenn.

ROBERT BOLIVAR RATHBUN (1825-1900+), son of James⁶ Rathbun (Philander⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted August 6, 1862, in Co. A of the 25th Wisc. Infantry.

ROBERT BRUCE RATHBUN (1843-1921), son of Edward⁶ Rathbun (Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted Sept. 1, 1861, in Co. I of the Fifth NY Infantry and later transferred to the 74th Regiment. He was wounded August 27, 1862, at Bristow Station, Va., and discharged June 2, 1865.

ROBERT CHESEBROUGH RATHBONE (1825-1915), son of Aaron⁵ Rathbone (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted April 17, 1861, in the Seventh N.Y. Infantry and was promoted to sergeant major. He was discharged in June 1863.



Robert C. Rathbone, sergeant major in the Seventh N.Y. Infantry.

ROBERT SPENCER RATHBUN (1838-1900+), son of Nelson⁷ Rathbun (John⁶ Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He reportedly served during the war but we have found no records.

ROYAL ANSON RATHBUN (1825-1903), son of Rodney⁵ Rathbun (Simeon⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). He enlisted August 27, 1862, in Co. A of the Second Illinois Cavalry and served until June 10, 1865.

SAMUEL RATHBUN (dates and ancestry unknown). He served with Co. C of the 21st Conn. Infantry and died August 25, 1864, at Philadelphia.

SAMUEL A. RATHBUN (1844-1898), son of Alvah⁷ Rathbun (Samuel⁶⁻⁵ Nathaniel⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). He served from August 11, 1862, until July 10, 1865, in Co. E of the 77th Illinois Infantry.

SAMUEL BROWN RATHBONE (1823-1905), son of William⁵ Rathbone (Wait⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). Family tradition says he served as a captain, possibly in a West Virginia unit, and was captured but escaped.

SAMUEL CARPENTER RATHBUN (1846-1927), son of John⁶ Rathbun (Gideon⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He served seven months during 1865 in Co. G of the 153rd Indiana Infantry.

SAMUEL E. RATHBUN (1840-1863), son of Samuel⁶ Rathbun (Robert⁵ Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹). He enlisted Sept. 20, 1861, in Co. C of the 16th Ohio Infantry, and died Sept. 13, 1863, in a military hospital at New Orleans.

SAMUEL EDGAR RATHBUN (1847-1905), son of Elijah⁶ Rathbun (Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He served late in the war in the 169th NY Infantry.

SAMUEL J. RATHBUN (1833-1904), a black Rathbun, son of Exeter Rathbun son of a former Rathbun slave in Exeter, R.I. He served in Co. D of the 26th U.S. Colored Infantry.

SEDGEWICK P. RATHBUN (1833-1872), son of Benjamin⁶ Rathbun (Daniel⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). He enlisted April 22, 1861, in Co. I of the 14th Ohio Infantry, was promoted to sergeant, but contracted measles and then tuberculosis, and was given a medical discharge.

STEPHEN B. RATHBUN (1845-1908), son of James⁶ Rathbun (Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted August 29, 1864, in Co. D of the Fourth Mich. Infantry, and was promoted to corporal on Sept. 14. He served until May 20, 1865.

STEPHEN WRIGHT RATHBUN (1840-1921), son of Nelson⁷ Rathbun (John⁶ Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He raised a company of recruits in Iowa and was appointed captain of Co. B of the 24th Iowa Infantry. His service was cut short when he became severely ill at Helena, Arkansas. He resigned his commission and returned home.

SYLVANUS ISAAC RATHBUN (1841-1895), son of Joseph⁶ Rathbun (Daniel⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted April 30, 1861, in Co. H of the 17th NY Infantry but deserted on June 1. He was arrested, court martialed and fined. He then moved to Iowa and reenlisted there on July 6, 1863, in Co. 1 of the Eighth Cavalry. He was promoted to corporal.

SYLVANUS R. RATHBUN (1826-1888), son of Daniel⁶ Rathbun (William⁵ Obadiah⁴ John³ William² John¹). He served in the band of the 29th Indiana Regiment.

THOMAS CORWIN RATHBUN (1840-1900), son of Clark⁷ Rathbun (Thomas⁶ Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted Dec. 1, 1861 in Co. B of the 11th Ohio Cavalry and served until April 1, 1865. His unit was sent west, and in March 1863 set off in a blizzard from Laramie to Fort Halleck in the Idaho Territory. Two men froze to death and Rathbun's face and eyes were badly frozen. After the war, he became blind in his left eye.

THOMAS FRY RATHBUN (1841-1862), son of Solomon⁷ Rathbun (Joshua⁶ Acors⁵ Joshua⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted in Co. F of the 13th Mass. Infantry and died March 14, 1862, at Winchester, Va.

THOMAS W. RATHBUN (1822-1901), son of John⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He served in 1861 and 1862 in Co. C of the 81st NY Infantry.

THOMAS WORTHINGTON RATHBONE (1824-1908), son of Jonathan⁵ Rathbone (Coggeshall⁴ Abraham³ Samuel² John¹). His war experiences were recorded in our Historian of July 1994.

VALENTINE ORSON RATHBURN (1842-1906), son of John⁶ Rathburn (Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹). He enlisted Sept. 15, 1862, in Co. B of the 27th Mass. Infantry and participated in several engagements, including Port Hudson, La. When his term expired, he reenlisted August 11, 1864, in Co. F of the 53rd Mass. Infantry, and was captured March 8, 1865, at Southwest Creek in N.C. He was sent to Libby Prison, paroled, and discharged June 15, 1865.

VALENTINE RICHARD RATHBUN (1843-1872), son of Lorenzo⁶ Rathbun (John⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted Sept. 22, 1862, in an Illinois regiment, was promoted to corporal, and served until June 16, 1865.

WALLACE PURDY RATHBUN (1843-1870), son of Erastus⁶ Rathbun (Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He drew a pension for Civil War service, but we have found no record.

WARREN E. RATHBUN (1823-1886), son of George⁶ Rathbun (Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted Oct. 4, 1861, in Co. G of the 32nd Ohio infantry and was discharged due to disability on Dec. 10, 1863. His brother, George, was an officer in the Confederate Army.

WARREN RATHBUN (1834-??), son of Daniel⁶ Rathbun (William⁵ Obadiah⁴ John³ William² John¹). He served in an Iowa regiment, details unknown.

WASHINGTON DAY RATHBUN (1839-1896), son of Gamaliel⁶ Rathbun (Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻² John¹). He served in Co. C of the Third Minn. Infantry.

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WATERMAN B. RATHBUN (1821-1874+), son of William⁵ Rathbun (Thomas⁴⁻³ Samuel² John¹). He drew a pension for service with the 141st NY Infantry.

WATSON W. RATHBUN (1847-1865?), son of William⁷ Rathbun (Amos⁶⁻⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). He served with Co. G of the 33rd Wisc. Infantry, and died of disease at a military hospital in Marietta, Ohio.

WILBERFORCE RATHBUN (1849-1921+), son of Levant⁶ Rathbun (Joel⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). He apparently served in a Pennsylvania regiment and applied for a pension in 1880.

WILLETT JOB RATHBUN (1844-1864), son of Job⁶ Rathbun (Gideon⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted in 1862 in Co. K of the 110th N.Y. Infantry and died in 1864 of yellow fever in Key West, Florida. (See accompanying story.)

WILLIAM AUSTIN RATHBUN (1832-1897), son of Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He served from 1863 to 1865 as a sergeant in the First Wisc. Light Artillery.



William Austin Rathbun, sergeant in the First Wisconsin Light Artillery.

WILLIAM A. RATHBUN (1848-1937), son of John⁶ Rathbun (Amos⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted in Feb. 1865, age 16, in Co. B of the 192nd Ohio Infantry, and was discharged in Sept. 1865.

WILLIAM A. RATHBUN (1845-1921), son of John⁷ Rathbun (Valentine⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). We have no record of his service, but he was listed as a Massachusetts pensioner in 1890.

WILLIAM ALVIN RATHBUN (1845-1917), son of Cornelius⁶ Rathbun (George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). He was a Texan, but served in the Union Army.

WILLIAM CONNELL RATHBUN (1842-1901), son of Levi⁷ Rathbun (John⁶ Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted July 30, 1861, in Co. A of the Second Illinois Cavalry and was discharged Nov. 22, 1865.

WILLIAM C. RATHBUN (1842-1906), son of Robert⁶ Rathbun (John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He enlisted August 12, 1862, in Co. H of the Seventh RI Infantry. He suffered a severe leg wound at the Battle of Fredericksburg Dec. 13, 1862, and surgeons amputated his leg just above the knee. He wore a wooden leg for the rest of his life.

WILLIAM HENRY RATHBUN (1837-1881), son of Nathan⁷ Rathbun (Nathaniel⁶ Samuel⁵ Nathaniel⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted Jan. 2, 1864, in Co. D of the 57th Mass. Infantry and was wounded May 12, 1864, at Spotsylvania. He recovered and returned to duty, only to be wounded again, in the hip, at the Battle of the Wilderness. He was discharged July 30, 1865.

WILLIAM HENRY RATHBUN (1831-1910+), son of Samuel⁶ Rathbun (Robert⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He served in Co. F of the 82nd Ohio Infantry in 1864-5.



William C. Rathbun (right), who lost a leg at the battle of Fredericksburg while serving with the Seventh R.I. Infantry. The young man with him (name unknown) had been injured, and Rathbun was carrying him off the battlefield when he was shot in the leg.



The wooden leg which William C. Rathbun wore in his later years. It was found a few years ago in an attic, covered with dust, with the shoe and stocking still attached.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON RATHBUN (1836-1918), son of Alfred⁵ Rathbun (Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). We have found no record of his service, but he died in the Soldiers' Home in Los Angeles.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON RATHBUN (1841-1863), son of Daniel⁶ Rathbun (William⁵ Obadiah⁴ John³ William² John¹). He died of typhoid fever Jan. 12, 1863, at Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

WILLIAM MARCELLUS RATHBUN (1847-1876), son of William⁷ Rathbun (Ami⁶ Joshua⁵ William⁴ Job³ Joseph² John¹). He enlisted Nov. 20, 1863, in Co. C of the Ninth US Cavalry and served until Nov. 28, 1866.

WILLIAM O. RATHBUN (1831-1869), son of Raymond⁶ Rathbun (Stephen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted Sept. 14, 1864, in Co. G of the 178th Ohio Infantry. He contracted tuberculosis and was discharged June 29, 1865. He spent the next three years in bed before the disease took his life.

WILLIAM R. RATHBUN (1829-1899), son of Gideon⁶ Rathbun (Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted Dec. 8, 1863, in Co. M of the 127th Indiana Cavalry, was promoted to corporal on April 30, 1864, and to sergeant Sept. 1, 1865.

WILLIAM ROOT RATHBUN (1838-1865), son of Theophilus⁶ Rathbun (Josiah⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). We have found no record of his service, but he was captured and died in October 1865 at Andersonville Prison.

WILLIAM RANSOM RATHBONE (1813-1872), son of Ransom⁶ Rathbone (Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). He was commissioned commissary captain Nov. 29, 1862, of Co. C of the First Brigade, US Army Fifth Corps. He was later promoted to major and resigned August 6, 1864.

WILLIAM T. RATHBUN (1837-1921), son of Valentine⁷ Rathbun (Caleb⁶ Valentine⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He served in Co. I of the 41st Ohio Infantry from Feb. 24, 1864, to March 29, 1865.

WILLIAM WELLINGTON RATHBONE (1845-1896), son of Philander⁶ Rathbun (Philander⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted August 10, 1864, in Co. D of the 98th NY Infantry, and was discharged, sick, on Dec. 22, 1864.

WINFIELD RATHBUN (dates and ancestry unknown). His widow Josephine applied for a pension in 1878 stating that Winfield had served in the 75th US Infantry during the war.

WINFIELD SCOTT RATHBUN (1846-1900), son of Carlton⁷ Rathbun (Demarcus⁶ Solomon⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted in December 1861 in the 16th Illinois Cavalry, was captured in January 1862 in the Cumberland Gap, sent to a Confederate prison and was eventually paroled and returned home. He enlisted again Jan. 1, 1863, in Co. H of the 16th Illinois Cavalry and was taken prisoner Jan. 3, 1864, at the Battle of Jonesville, Va. Released in a few weeks, he returned to his regiment and served until August 19, 1865, participating in the Battles of Dalton, Marietta, Resaca, Buzzards Roost, Atlanta, Columbia, Duck River, Franklin, Nashville, Spring Hill and Pulaski.

Several omissions and errors have been found in the list of Union veterans in our Spring Historian.

The entry on Isaac Paul Rathbun should read Isaiah Paul Rathbun.

Albert Henry Rathbun died in 1921.

George Washington Rathbun served only with Battery D of the First R.I./Light Artillery, and was mustered out June 9, 1865.

Francis William Rathbun, listed as unidentified, was the son of William⁷ Rathbun (Jonathan⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹). He was born in 1845 and died sometime after 1900. He served in Co. E of the 86th NY Infantry.

Joel Rathbun, his brother was wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness (not killed there) and died in 1864 in a military hospital at Alexandria, Va.

Benjamin Franklin Rathburn's service was listed as unknown. Pension records sent by his great-granddaughter, Dolly Rathburn, show that he enlisted August 11, 1864, aged 17, in Co. C of the 42nd Mo. Infantry. He was given a medical discharge June 28, 1865, suffering from scurvy and neuralgia.

Omitted were:

JOHN CASTELLI RATHBONE (1818-1890), son of William Palmer⁵ Rathbone (Wait⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He was an officer in the Virginia Militia before the war, and in the fall of 1861 was commissioned a lieutenant-colonel and put in command of the 11th Va. Infantry Regiment, comprised of pro-union men in what later became West Virginia. On Sept. 2, 1862, he surrendered his regiment to Confederate forces at Spencer Court House, Roane, Va. He was dismissed from service Jan. 6, 1863, for "cowardly conduct" but the order was later revoked by President Andrew Johnson.

GEORGE CUSHING RATHBUN (1837-1906), son of Solomon⁷ Rathbun (Joshua⁶ Acors⁵ Joshua⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted July 10, 1862, in Co. A of the Seventh R.I. Infantry, was promoted to corporal, wounded in the left shoulder at the Battle of Fredericksburg, and was discharged June 23, 1863. (His service was erroneously credited to George Washington Rathbun).

JAMES H. RATHBUN (1840-1862), son of Saxton⁷ Rathbun (Chaplin⁶ Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted June 4, 1861, in the 21st Illinois Infantry, described as six feet one inch tall. He was killed in action Dec. 31, 1862, at Stone River, Tenn. His father took a team and wagon to the battlefield to bring his son's body back to Ohio for burial.

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SIMEON RATHBUN (1862-1921), son of John⁶ Rathbun (Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He served in the 47th Illinois Infantry and later received a pension.

Southern Soldiers

Many members of our family fought for the Southern states during the Civil War, although in far fewer numbers than fought for the North. Most of the Confederate soldiers were descendants of a John Rathbone of Virginia and North Carolina, whom we have not been able to link with our New England ancestors.

In the following list of Southern soldiers, the first eight are members of "our" family. The others descend from this unidentified John Rathbone:

DeWITT CLINTON RATHBONE (1818-????), son of Arnon⁶ Rathbone (David⁵ John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He served in the Louisiana Cavalry and was captured June 13, 1863, at Port Hudson, La. Paroled July 6, 1863, he enlisted again and was again captured and paroled in 1865. He is possibly the "E.C. Rathbone" who was captured Feb. 17, 1864 at Bayou Sara, and paroled August 23, 1864.

GEORGE SOLON RATHBUN (1829-1907), son of George⁶ Rathbun (Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). In 1861, as an attorney and state legislator in Missouri, he was commissioned a lieutenant-colonel in the state militia and later promoted to full colonel in command of a regiment. He participated in a number of battles, and also served as a judge advocate and presided over many courts martial. After the war, he resumed the practice of law in Springfield, Mo. (His brother Warren served in the Union Army).

GEORGE WASHINGTON RATHBONE (1838-1910), son of Rufus⁶ Rathbone (Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He enlisted May 3, 1861, in Co. B of the 20th Mississippi Infantry and served later in Co. L of the 47th Miss. Infantry.

JOEL RATHBUN (1821-1879), son of Joel⁵ Rathbun (Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). He served, dates unknown, in the 24th and 25th Texas Cavalry.

JOSEPH RATHBUN (1845-1868), son of David⁷ Rathbun (Joseph⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He enlisted August 28, 1862, in Co. A of the Eighth Missouri Cavalry, was captured in May 1865 and paroled June 7 at Shreveport, La.

LYSANDER RATHBUN (1813-1862), son of Joel⁵ Rathbun (Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). He enlisted April 4, 1862, at Monroe, La., as a sergeant in a Confederate Cavalry regiment, and died Nov. 1, 1862, of pneumonia at Holly Spring, Miss. His son Philander also died in the war.

MORRIS RATHBUN (1843-1889), son of Lysander⁶ Rathbun (Joel⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). He enlisted Dec. 1, 1861, in Louisiana, was wounded May 16, 1862, and reenlisted Jan. 20, 1864, in Georgia.

PHILANDER ALDEN RATHBUN (1841-1865), son of Lysander⁶ Rathbun (see above). He enlisted Dec. 11, 1861, in Co. A of the 19th La. Infantry, was promoted to quartermaster sergeant, and was wounded in action Sept. 30, 1863. He returned to duty and was captured Dec. 17, 1864, at Franklin, Tenn. He died of pneumonia Feb. 6, 1865, as a prisoner of war at Camp Chase, Ohio.

(Descendant of John Rathbone of North Carolina; their names appear in war records under various spellings.)

HIRAM RATHBONE, enlisted May 31, 1861, in Co. C of the 25th NC Infantry.

JACOB MURPHY RATHBONE, enlisted Feb. 25, 1863, aged 27, in a NC regiment.

JAMES HARVEY RATHBONE, enlisted May 28, 1861, as a musician, and deserted Sept. 18, 1861. He returned Oct. 21 and was transferred to the regimental band on Dec. 6, 1862. He was captured Nov. 7, 1863 at Rappahannock Station, Va., and paroled Feb. 25, 1865.

JOHN HIRAM RATHBONE, enlisted August 17, 1861, age 19, and died Nov. 28, 1861, at Raleigh, NC.

JOHN RATHBONE, enlisted March 22, 1862, in Co. C of the 25th NC Infantry, age 58, and died March 26, 1863.

JESSE RATHBONE, service details unknown.

LORENZO DOW RATHBONE, enlisted May 31, 1861, age 18, in Co. C of the 25th NC Infantry. He was wounded in action and died Dec. 12, 1864, in a military hospital at Petersburg, Va.

PURNELL RATHBONE, service details unknown.

R.W. RATHBONE, served in Co. D of the Fifth Tennessee Regiment.

RUSSELL M. RATHBONE, service details unknown.

SAMUEL A. RATHBONE, cavalryman, regiment unknown.

SILAS G. RATHBONE, service details unknown.

TILMAN RATHBONE, service details unknown.

THOMAS RICHMOND RATHBONE, enlisted March 11, 1862, in Co. E of the Sixth S.C. Regiment. Died of measles April 17, 1862, age 28, at Ashland, Va.

THOMAS RATHBONE, served in the First Tenn. Infantry.

WILLIAM B. RATHBONE, service details unknown; lived in Blount Co., Tenn., in 1890.

WILLIAM C. RATHBONE, served in Co. C of the 37th Tenn. Infantry.

WILLIAM H. RATHBONE, enlisted August 17, 1861, age 17.

Three of our "in-laws" held high military posts during the Civil War:

EDWARD FULTON, who married Mary⁶ Rathburn (David⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 53rd Ohio Infantry. He served from 1861 to 1864, when his horse fell into a ditch and the hilt of his sword punctured Fulton's abdomen. He was medically discharged.

BENJAMIN SMITH, who married Sarah Frances⁷ Rathbun (Charles⁶ Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), entered the war as a captain in the Second Michigan Cavalry and worked his way up to colonel of the regiment.

FREDERICK TOWNSEND, who married Sarah⁷ Rathbone (Joel⁶ Samuel⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), raised and commanded a company in the Third NY Infantry. He was promoted to major in 1861, and then in 1864 was named lieutenant-colonel of the Ninth US Cavalry. He was breveted a full colonel and later became a brigadier-general.

(Special thanks for helping compile information on Civil War veterans to Rob Rathbun, Frank E. Rathbun, David E. Rathbun and Anna Angelini. Thanks also to members who provided pictures—Frank E. Rathbun, Dorothy Danks, Edith Leppla, Haybron Adams, Betty Drake, Jayne Rezin and the late Rosma Limbeck and Mrytle Rathbun. The picture of Sgt. Robert C. Rathbone is from the Library of Congress.)

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On March 19, 1864, he wrote:

"I have been sick. I am in the hospital but I am well. I haven't got quite strong enough to do duty yet." Then on May 11, he wrote: "I haven't had my picture taken yet. I am waiting till I get a little more flesh, for I got pretty poor when I was sick."

It was apparently his last letter home. He had contracted yellow fever and with his body weakened from months of illness, he could not recover. In June, Willett's father received a letter from his son's commanding officer, Lieutenant C. Gardner, dated June 16, 1864:

"Dear Sir—I have to relate the death of your noble son Willett. He was taken sick last Sunday and went to the U.S. Hospital, where he died the 15th at 9 o'clock p.m. His loss is deeply felt by every member of Co. K. He was a good soldier and always done his duty under most trying circumstances. He is buried by the side of the rest of the company who have gone before him. Since we came here, we have lost six of our best men. No one can tell who will be called next. You have one thing to console you—to think that your noble son died in the defense of his country."

A few days later came another letter, which must have meant far more to the grieving parents.

It was from Joseph W. Roberts, a shopkeeper in Key West, who had struck up a friendship with young Willett.

"I met Willie when he first came here," Roberts wrote. "I have felt a deep interest in his temporal and spiritual welfare. I learned to love him. Whenever he came to the village, he always passed through the street where my store stands, and he would stop and see me ... when he was made orderly for the Quartermaster, he would at times stop to see me."

"On Saturday evening he did not stop, but spoke to me as he was passing, and when I said goodbye I had no idea it would be for the last time. When I made inquiries on Tuesday, I was told that he had died. I shed tears when I heard of his death."

"I had spoken to him on religion ... As often as we were together, I never heard an improper word pass his lips ... I was at Willie's grave yesterday. I shall often visit it. Please forgive me for intruding upon you at this time. Also, excuse me, a young man, for attempting to give encouragement to one more experienced in life."

The Rathbuns and Roberts exchanged several letters over the next year. In December, they sent him a copy of Willett's picture. When he wrote to thank them, he added, "I trust in God that this war will soon be over, when our soldiers and sailors can once more return to their homes ... but alas, how many homes will be still desolate because loved ones are lying on a distant shore."

(Willett Rathbun's letters are now in the possession of Mrs. Dorothy Danks, his great-niece. We thank her for sharing them with us.)

A recent book about Almond, N.Y., contains some interesting material on Joseph Avery Rathbun, son of John⁴ Rathbun (Joshua³ John²⁻¹). Joseph settled in Almond in the 1790s, and was hired as the local school teacher, to be paid "two bushels of wheat...for one quarter of the year, per student, and to board himself."

Rathbun, "professing science in the noble art of vocal music," also agreed to operate a special music school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, either from six to nine in the morning or five to eight in the evening, for three months. He was to be paid another bushel of wheat per student.

One of the world's top athletes in 1921 was Lona Rathbone of the Panama Canal Zone, who was termed "one of the most proficient feminine athletes in the world today." She had won several titles for high dives and fancy dives, as well as the standing and running broad jumps and in relay racing. We do not know her identity.

Wife Poisons Rathbun in 1900 Murder Case

A Rathbun family in Connecticut made headlines 96 years ago, when one of our cousins died after drinking poisoned coffee probably intended by his wife for her lover.

William Rathbun, 47, of New Haven, died Dec. 21, 1900, and his wife, Anna Maria, was sent to prison for his murder. They had been married 23 years and had six children. He was the son of Elijah⁷ Rathbun (Jonathan⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹).

Rathbun, a railroad brakeman, became violently ill Dec. 20 after drinking from a container of coffee put in his dinner pail by his wife. John F. Hart, a fellow worker who boarded with the Rathbuns, also drank some of the coffee and became sick. Both men seemed to recover, however, and went on with their duties.

Rathbun, however, collapsed after arriving home that evening, and a physician was called. Hart also became sick again. When the doctor learned that both men had drunk from the same coffee container, he suspected poison and asked Mrs. Rathbun to save the remaining coffee. She agreed.

Both men were sent to a hospital, where Hart recovered, but Rathbun died the next day. The New Haven coroner ordered an autopsy, which showed traces in Rathbun's stomach of an arsenic-based rat poison.

Detectives assigned to investigate the case soon learned that Mrs. Rathbun and Hart had been having a love affair, and both were arrested on suspicion of murder. They told conflicting stories, and police at first thought that Hart was the guilty one.

Mrs. Rathbun told investigators that Hart, who had arrived home before her husband, brought the dinner pail and coffee container home, and warned her not to let the children "get hold of

it." (The Rathbuns' three youngest children were still living at home, ranging from nine to 17 years).

She said that she threw the coffee out immediately, but her story was contradicted by the doctor, who remembered that he had told her to save the coffee and that she had agreed. After Rathbun died, he asked for it, but was told she had thrown it out.

After hearing the statements of Mrs. Rathbun, Hart and the doctor, the coroner ruled that Mrs. Rathbun had poisoned the coffee, but with the intention of killing Hart, her lover, not her husband. Her motive was jealousy, because Hart had begun seeing another woman.

Rathbun ordinarily drank tea, not coffee, but he apparently agreed to sample the poisoned coffee after Hart told him it had a "peculiar" taste.

Based on the coroner's findings, Mrs. Rathbun was indicted for murder. At her trial, her attorney tried to argue that Rathbun might have poisoned the coffee himself to kill Hart after learning of his wife's affair. He could have sampled some of the coffee to allay Hart's suspicions, not realizing that a small quantity could be fatal.

The jury was not impressed with this theory. After four hours' deliberation, Mrs. Rathbun was found guilty of second-degree murder, and the judge immediately sentenced her to life imprisonment. Mrs. Rathbun "sank to her seat, overcome," and had to be assisted from the courtroom. Newspaper accounts did not mention whether any of her six children were present.

That same day, John Hart was convicted of committing adultery with Mrs. Rathbun and was sentenced to serve two years and six months in prison.

The "Rathbun Poison Case" was soon forgotten. Then, 17 years later on Dec. 10, 1917, Mrs. Rathbun was

released from prison by order of the Connecticut State Board of Pardons. What became of her is not known. One of her six children, Nellie, died in 1903, aged 20, while her mother was still in prison. Nothing is known of the other five.

(Our thanks to Shirley Rathbun of Lowell, Mass., who provided us with newspaper clippings of this fascinating story, which she found while indexing early Lowell newspapers for the local library.)

Samuel Rathbun, son of Robert⁵ Rathbun (John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), died August 23, 1858, in Cumberland County, Ill. (Historian of Oct. 1989, page 62.) According to his gravestone in Washington Cemetery, he was 56 years, five months and 29 days old, making his birthdate Feb. 25, 1802. His daughter Hannah J. Rathbun died Nov. 20, 1858, aged 22. His son Henry died Dec. 9, 1857, aged 15 years, four months and 12 days, making his birthdate July 22, 1842. (He is obviously not the Henry who died in 1891 as we reported. This Henry is unidentified.) In the same cemetery is the grave of Susanna Rathbun, who died Sept. 5, 1856, aged six months and 20 days, "daughter of E and E Rathbun." We have not been able to identify them.

In our Historian of January 1988, page 10, we listed the wife of Hiram⁶ Rathbun (Saxon⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), as Otse Blakeley or Blakesly. However, records in the Onondaga (NY) Library found by Rob Rathbun list her as the daughter of Asahel Chappell.

Genealogy: The Seventh Generation in America

245. ALLEN SHEFFIELD TYLER⁷ RATHBUN (Joshua⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born June 17, 1864, at Hopkinton, R.I. He was married July 3, 1895, at North Kingston, R.I., to Myrtle Mae Boss, born April 29, 1871, daughter of William Austin and Judith (Rathbun) Boss. Judith was the daughter of Newman⁶ Rathbun (Jonathan⁵ John⁴⁻¹). They were divorced by 1916, and he was then married to Katherine S.C. French, birthdate and parentage unknown. Myrtle was married April 1, 1917, to Alexis Martel. Allen died May 8, 1938, at Westerly, R.I. Nothing more is known of Katherine, who survived him.

CHILDREN

All by Myrtle

ELWOOD GEORGE ALLEN, born Feb. 25, 1896; died Sept., 30, 1896, of cholera.

ROSE MARY, born Dec. 3, 1897; married Frank William Hartshorne Dec. 28, 1916.

WALLACE A., born May 17, 1900; died Nov. 22, 1900.

ERNEST ELMER, born March 23, 1903; married Mary Rita Hughes.

WALLACE A., born about 1905; alive in 1938; died by 1963.

246. HENRY LEWIS⁷ RATHBUN (Joshua⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Dec. 9, 1867, at Richmond, R.I. He was married August 13, 1890, at North Kingston, R.I. to Helen Amanda Briggs, born March 10, 1870, daughter of William C. and Tryphena (Card) Briggs. They lived at East Greenwich. He died August 27, 1940, and Helen died March 22, 1941.

CHILD

HELEN FLORENCE, born July 4, 1891; died July 22, 1894.

247. STEPHEN KILTON⁷ RATHBONE (Joshua⁶⁻³ John²⁻¹). He was born Nov. 6, 1796, at Providence, R.I., and was married there Oct. 15, 1822, to Sarah Waterman Brown, born August 14, 1801, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Waterman) Brown. He ran a dry goods business in the 1820s but then became a banker and for 20 years was cashier of the American Bank of Providence, Rhode Island's largest bank. He also served in the state militia, as a lieutenant in 1818 and captain from 1820 to 1825. A staunch abolitionist, he campaigned for office on the Free Soil (Anti-slavery) Ticket in the 1850s. Sarah died Jan. 7, 1840, and he died Sept. 26, 1871.

CHILDREN

MARY BROWN, born July 24, 1823; married Henry Wood Gardner on Sept. 8, 1846.

SARAH WATERMAN, born March 5, 1825; died single Sept. 4, 1901.

ALMIRA DYER, born August 23, 1826; died single Jan. 26, 1909.

AUGUSTUS, born July 21, 1818. He moved to Santa Clara, California, where he was married Oct. 22, 1853, to Hannah Elizabeth Chase. Both died in 1909 leaving no children.

CORNELIA, born June 23, 1830; married Benjamin F. Thurston on May 9, 1853.

ELIZABETH KILTON, born July 14, 1832; married Charles H. Parkhurst on August 18, 1858.

HARRIET BROWN, born Jan. 3, 1835; married Henry W. Brown on May 15, 1860.

ANNA, born Feb. 7, 1837; married John H. Boardman on Feb. 3, 1870.

EMILY BROWN, born April 17, 1838; died Sept. 25, 1840.

STEPHEN KILTON, born July 28, 1839; died Feb. 25, 1842.

248. WILLIAM PENN⁷ RATHBONE (Joshua⁶⁻³ John²⁻¹), born May 3, 1798, in Providence, R.I. He was married July 11, 1827, in Hallowell, Maine, to Ruth Ann Leonard, born May 25, 1803, daughter of Silas and Ruth (Bruton) Leonard. She died Nov. 16, 1848, and he was married on Dec. 12, 1849, in Augusta, Ga., to her niece, Frances Amelia Leonard, born April 11, 1827, daughter of Silas Leonard Jr., who died April 22, 1852. He was then married Oct. 19, 1858, in Providence, to Ruth Ellen Hall, a cousin of his first wife, who was born Feb. 28, 1830. Rathbone was a cotton merchant and lived a number of years in Augusta, Georgia, to be near his cotton suppliers. He returned to Providence in the early 1850s and died there June 21, 1877. Ruth died Jan. 25, 1880.

CHILDREN

By Ruth Ann

LEONARD, born Jan. 2, 1829; died Nov. 13, 1829.

WILLIAM LEONARD, born April 30, 1830; died August 28, 1830.

JOSHUA HENRY, born August 12, 1832; married Elizabeth Adams.

CHILD, born in 1834; died aged four days.

ANNA., born August 24, 1836; died Oct. 12, 1836.

WILLIAM PENN, born Oct. 28, 1841; died March 3, 1845.

LEONARD, born Dec. 20, 1843; died June 27, 1846.

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By Frances

FRANCES LEONARD, born May 12, 1851; died May 2, 1852.

By Ruth Ellen

WAITE, born Nov. 13, 1859; died Feb. 28, 1931, single.

JULIAN, born Oct. 19, 1863; married Esther C. Williams.

JOSEPHINE, born May 28, 1868; died single August 26, 1913.

249. JOSHUA B.⁷ RATHBUN (Abraham⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Dec. 5, 1797, at North Kingston, R.I. He was married April 17, 1818, to Jane Ardelia Bailey, born about 1800, parentage unknown, who died a year later on May 20, 1819. He was then married Nov. 19, 1820, to Mary Ann Peckham, born August 23, 1802, daughter of James B. and Amy Peckham. She died July 29, 1835, and he was married March 27, 1836, to Amy Hambly, born May 26, 1798, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Hambly. She died Sept. 10, 1857, and he apparently was married the following month, on Oct. 31, to Ellen B. Atkinson, about whom nothing is known. She died probably in 1859, and his fifth and last marriage was on May 4, 1860, to Maria J. Brown, birth date and parentage unknown. Joshua was a shoemaker, and lived at various times in North Kingston, Tiverton and Barrington, R.I. He was a notary public and justice of the peace in North Kingston in the 1820s, where he was also a militia captain in 1818, lieutenant-colonel in 1829, and full colonel from 1830 to 1832. He died August 29, 1881, at Barrington. Maria was married three years later on Dec. 18, 1884, in Providence, to George Percival.

CHILDREN

By Mary Ann

GEORGE PECKHAM, born Sept. 26, 1821; married Amanda Godfrey.

MARY NICHOLS, born Dec. 22, 1823; died March 24, 1844.

JOSHUA CLARK, born Dec. 21, 1825; died Oct. 13, 1842.

WILLIAM JAMES, born in Sept. 1831; died young.

FRANCIS HENRY, born Sept. 15, 1834; married Sarah D. Roundy.

By Amy

BENJAMIN HAMBLY, born August 25, 1838; died Oct. 12, 1858, at sea.

AMY HAMBLY, born May 9, 1841; married Horace W. Arnold on Jan. 5, 1858.

250. THOMAS RODMAN⁷ RATHBUN (Abraham⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Jan. 10, 1820, at Wickford, R.I. He was married May 12, 1841 to Lucy Ann Gardiner, born July 21, 1817, daughter of Beriah and Elizabeth (Hammond) Gardiner. He was a jeweler in Providence for a number of years, and in 1870 purchased the historic Smith's Castle in Wickford. Lucy died Oct. 19, 1878, in Providence. He was married again on September 28, 1880, in Boston, Mass., to Dorcas Gifford, born July 25, 1850, daughter of Keith H. and Lucy M. Gifford. About that time, he sold his store in Providence and also Smith's Castle, and moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he had a jewelry store until he died on March 29, 1893, of a tumor. Dorcas died in Detroit on Nov. 25, 1907.

CHILDREN

All by Lucy

CHARLES STEWART, born July 24, 1842; died Jan. 20, 1843.

ANNA ELIZABETH, born Jan. 11, 1844; died July 20, 1847.

AMY SALISBURY, born Dec. 19, 1846; married Truman Chase on May 27, 1868.

LUCY ANN, born March 14, 1849; married Dr. Samuel Blake.

SARAH ELIZABETH, born Oct. 3, 1850; married Sidney Wilkenson on Feb. 21, 1876.

THOMAS RODMAN, born Oct. 9, 1853; married R. Evelyn Coleman.

LILLA H., born Sept. 27, 1858; died Sept. 6, 1874.

251. WILLIAM WALLACE⁷ RATHBUN (Abraham⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born August 31, 1821, at Wickford, R.I. He was married Nov. 6, 1845, at Providence to Lydia Davis Angell, born June 26, 1828, daughter of Joseph and Hope (Sprague) Angell. He was associated in the jewelry business at Providence with his brother Thomas for many years. Lydia died April 28, 1864, and he was married Sept. 16, 1866, to Maria Morton (Snow) Field, born August 20, 1826, daughter of William and Mary (Washburn) Snow, and widow of Eustice Field. He died Nov. 24, 1876, at Providence. Marie died Oct. 1, 1897, in Raynham, Mass.

CHILDREN

Both by Lydia

REBECCA RUMRILLE, born August 17, 1846; married Adoniram J. Cushing on May 27, 1872.

WILLIAM WALLACE JR., born Sept. 6, 1848; he was living in Chicago, employed as a bookkeeper, in 1870. Nothing more is known of him.

252. WALTER NICHOLS⁷ RATHBUN (Abraham⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born May 21, 1823, at Wickford, R.I. He was married June 8, 1846, to Rebecca Malvina Smith, born Oct. 24, 1827, daughter of Captain Stephen and Mary Ann Smith. He was a carpenter in Providence, where Rebecca died Feb. 19, 1892. He moved to Warwick and died there Nov. 16, 1900.

CHILDREN

MARY TILLEY, born April 8, 1847; married William H. Smiley on April 21, 1874.

LYDIA SMITH, born Jan. 22, 1850; married Charles C. Tilley on April 28, 1876.

STEPHEN BORDEN, born March 6, 1857; married Fanny Dunn.

253. WILLIAM⁷ RATHBUN (Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Feb. 18, 1796, at Richmond, R.I. He was married Sept. 22, 1819, to Bathsheba

Pound, born July 2, 1798, daughter of Elijah and Isabella (Sharp) Pound. They moved in 1820 to Vernon, N.Y. and then to nearby Rochester, where he was a clothing manufacturer. Bathsheba died there Jan. 11, 1833. He apparently was in the shipping business, and was co-owner of several ships operating out of New Orleans. He drowned on May 4, 1833, in the Mississippi River near New Orleans.

CHILDREN

SARAH ANN, born April 5, 1821; married Lyman Oakley Jan. 4, 1840.

CAROLINE ISABELLA, born July 14, 1823; married Thomas S. Clarke on July 14, 1841. (Their son Frederick Joshua Rathbun Clarke, became a prominent banker in Ulster County, N.Y.).

WILLIAM POUND (or PECKHAM), born May 31, 1826; married Angeline E. Hance.

JEANNETTE BATHSHEBA, born Oct. 8, 1829; died July 4, 1889, single, at Utica.

254. SOLOMON⁷ RATHBUN

(Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born June 30, 1799, at Richmond, R.I. He went with his parents as a baby to Oneida Co. N.Y. and was married there March 3, 1824, to Hannah Quimby, born June 23, 1807, daughter of Daniel and Deborah (Powell) Quimby. They lived a number of years at Rathbunville, N.Y., which was named for his father. He was a prominent miller, with flour mills, sawmills and gristmills at Rathbunville: a flour and feed shop in Little Falls, N.Y., and even established a lumber mill in Michigan. His milling operations were twice destroyed by fire, but he rebuilt and remained in business. He moved in the 1850s to Springfield, Mass., where he and his son Acors established the A. Rathbun Company, dealing in flour and grain. Solomon died there on Nov. 9, 1861, and Hannah later moved to New York City, where she died Dec. 3, 1891.

CHILDREN

ACORS, born August 24, 1827; married Eliza Burrell.

DANIEL, born June 21, 1829; married Duellanna Wheeler Sept. 9, 1851, and moved to New York City, where he died Sept. 8, 1862, of consumption. Duellanna who was pregnant died a few weeks later, on Oct. 6, "under distressing circumstances"—possibly suicide in grief over her husband's death.

EMILY, born Sept. 26, 1831; married John Leonard Kipp Sept. 26, 1853.

HENRY, born Dec. 30, 1833; died Dec. 24, 1852.

EDWARD, born April 14, 1838; married Marie Warner.

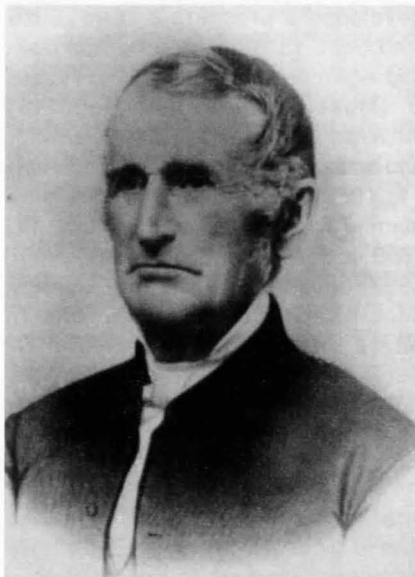
GEORGE JAY, born Sept. 6, 1840; died Feb. 22, 1860.

MILTON, born August 3, 1844; married Harriet (Lee) Fales.

FRANK A., born Jan. 23, 1847; married (1) Charlotte Nims, and (2) Marietta Button.

ALICE NAOMI, born Nov. 16, 1850; married Josiah Lombard on June 7, 1877.

255. WELLS⁷ RATHBUN (Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Feb. 12, 1801, at Richmond, R.I., and went with his parents as a baby to Oneida County, N.Y. He was married there



Wells Rathbun
(1801-1874)

Sept. 21, 1826, to Amy Otis, born about 1803, daughter of Dr. Ephraim and Mary (Cornwell) Otis. They lived near Verona, N.Y., where he was a farmer. Amy died there Oct. 16, 1861, and Wells died May 9, 1874.

CHILDREN

MARY, born Sept. 14, 1827; died Nov. 11, 1835.

CHARLES, born July 29, 1829; married Jane Blair.

CAROLINE, born May 2, 1831; died March 8, 1890, in Madison, Wisc.

LYDIA MARIA, born April 27, 1835; died March 5, 1837.

NANCY JANE, born June 28, 1837; married Peter Young Aug. 24, 1869.

JAMES WELLS, born Jan. 6, 1839; married Harriet Thompson.

ARTHUR, born Sept. 30, 1841; died March 20, 1842.

ALFRED (twin), born Sept. 30, 1841; married Phoebe Searing.

256. PECKHAM⁷ RATHBUN (Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Jan. 15, 1802, in Verona, N.Y. and was married there Dec. 29, 1825, to Nancy Allen, born about 1806, daughter of Lemuel and Eve Allen. They lived at Macedon, N.Y., where Nancy died April 19, 1841. He was married again on March 27, 1843, to Mary G. Howland, born about 1811, parentage unknown, and widow of David Howland. She died Jan. 15, 1860, and he was married on Jan. 24, 1861, to Sarah Howland (Wright) Wilde, born Nov. 3, 1822, daughter of Job and Rest (Macomber) Wright and widow of a Wilde. Peckham died Sept. 23, 1883, at Macedon, and Sarah died Feb. 10, 1909, at Saratoga, N.Y. Peckham was a saddle and harness maker.

CHILDREN

By Nancy

SARAH, born Oct. 10, 1826; married Ira Haviland July 25, 1846.

MARY, born Aug. 11, 1828; died April 20, 1829.

SOLOMON, born Feb. 9, 1830; married (?) Ellen _____ and died in 1863 at Fall River, Mass.

(Continued to page 36)

(Continued from page 35)

EDWIN, born March 8, 1832; died Feb. 9, 1841.

GEORGE, born Feb. 14, 1834; died July 8, 1843.

JANE, born June 4, 1839; married Ira Holmes Oct. 8, 1856.

By Mary

IRVING HOWLAND, born Oct. 10, 1844; married Anna M. Brown.

257. JOSHUA⁷ RATHBUN (Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Oct. 7, 1803, at Verona, N.Y., and was married Nov. 6, 1832, at Albion, N.Y., to Sarah Coehaven, born about 1807, parentage unknown. They moved to Albany, N.Y., where he opened a lumber business called Rathbun and Co. He dealt in expensive woods such as black walnut, cherry and sycamore, and later added hardware to his goods. His operations extended throughout New York and into New England. Sarah died May 2, 1872, and he was married on Oct. 26, 1876, to Evelyn B. Nelson, a widow, birth and parentage unknown. Joshua had no children, and took his nephew, Acors Rathbun (son of Solomon) into his business, first as an employee and then as a partner. Joshua died Sept. 30, 1887, leaving his nephew the business. Evelyn died in 1893.

258. PERRY⁷ RATHBUN (Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born July 22, 1811, at Verona, N.Y. He was married Dec. 14, 1837, at Julius, N.Y., to Lydia W. Hull, born June 22, 1816, daughter of George Hull. They moved to Rome, N.Y., where Perry was in business for many years, first as a grocer and later as a vinegar manufacturer. About 1870, he moved to Cass County, Iowa, where Lydia died Nov. 6, 1879. He was married again on Aug. 9, 1881, to Charlotte M. Salisbury, a widow, born Feb. 3, 1830, parentage unknown. Perry died July 28, 1890, and Charlotte on July 9, 1904. Both are buried in the Atlantic Cemetery in Cass County, Iowa.

CHILDREN

By Lydia

ALBERT HENRY, born April 2, 1842; married (1) Fannie Popham, and (2) Charlotte Weber.

LINDLEY S., born Feb. 17, 1845; he lived for a time in Chicago and Milwaukee, and died Oct. 27, 1879, apparently single.

259. BENJAMIN⁷ RATHBUN (Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Aug. 23, 1813, in Verona, N.Y. Little is known of his life. He apparently lived at times in Albany, Little Falls and Buffalo, N.Y., and may have been in the lumber business and a miller. The 1863 Buffalo directory called him "Doctor Benjamin Rathbun." Sometime about 1870, he moved to Cass County, Iowa, near his brother Perry, and died there Feb. 15, 1889.

260. ROWLAND⁷ RATHBUN (Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Aug. 17, 1817, in Verona, N.Y. He was married there Jan. 5, 1841, to Eliza A. Mosely, born March 16, 1821, daughter of Charles Mosely. They moved in June 1844 to Dupage County, Illinois, where he bought 80 acres of land, later added another 80 acres, and developed a prosperous farm. Eliza died Sept. 13, 1850, and he was married again on Oct. 26, 1851, to Harriet B. (Mosely) Bates, born Sept. 15, 1829, probably a sister of his first wife, and widow of a Bates. She died Aug. 11, 1859, in childbirth, and he was married two months later, on Oct. 17, 1859, to Josephine Smith, born April 7, 1837, daughter of Alvin and Dorothy (McCraw) Smith. Rowland reportedly was a financial backer of John C. Cooley in the 1898 publication of the Rathbone Genealogy. He died March 11, 1909, and Josephine died May 28, 1927.

CHILDREN

By Eliza

JOSHUA W., born Jan. 22, 1842; he served in the Illinois Cavalry during the

Civil War, then moved south to Tennessee and finally Mississippi, where he established a cotton plantation with several partners. He was drowned in 1868 in the Mississippi River. No known marriage.

CORNELIA ANNETTE, born May 22, 1844; married George W. Meacham on Sept. 16, 1860.

EMMA JOSEPHINE, born April 11, 1847; married Henry Pierce Jan. 6, 1869.

GEORGE ROWLAND, born Aug. 27, 1850; married (1) Hattie Brown and (2) Mary J. Ehrenfeldt.

By Harriet

ELIZA A., born Nov. 6, 1853; died Nov. 11, 1860.

CHARLES, born Aug. 11, 1859; died Sept. 26, 1859.

By Josephine

LINCOLN A., born Jan. 21, 1861; died March 23, 1861.

ACORS WELLS, born Dec. 7, 1862; married Anna L. Parker.

HARRIET, born Nov. 4, 1865; died Dec. 8, 1865.

SARAH A., born Dec. 14, 1866; married Ezra Fletcher Gould.

CARRIE DELIA, born Nov. 28, 1870; married Robert Harlan Patch Dec. 11, 1890.

JOHN KIPP, born Oct. 18, 1872; married Amanda Thiesse.

RICHARD OLIVER, born Nov. 1, 1874; married Jessie Adelaide Barber.

WARREN GRANT, born Dec. 19, 1879; died Oct. 25, 1958, single.

261. THOMAS MIFFLIN⁷ RATHBUN (Benjamin⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born about 1801 in Cayuga County, N.Y. He moved as a young man to Rochester, N.Y. and became a member of the city's first volunteer fire department. He was killed by a falling chimney while fighting a fire at a paper mill on Dec. 21, 1827, aged 25, the city's first fireman to be killed on duty. He apparently never married.

262. CHARLES W.⁷ RATHBUN (Benjamin⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born about 1809 in Cayuga County, N.Y. He

moved as a young man to Warren County, Pa., where he was married May 10, 1835, to Leonora Babcock, born about 1818, parentage unknown. He was a merchant at Warren, Pa., where he died in January 1869. Leonora died March 3, 1895.

CHILDREN

MARY L., born about 1836; married Sylvester H. Davis Nov. 13, 1858.

ELLEN, born about 1838; married a McDowell.

CHILD, born in Sept. 1840; died June 27, 1841.

GEORGE W., born about 1845; married Emeline Linsmer.

CHILD, born in July 1847, died Jan. 1, 1848.

FLORA, born in 1849; died May 4, 1851.

263. OLIVER SMITH⁷ RATHBUN (Benjamin⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), born August 15, 1811, in Springport, Cayuga County, N.Y. He was married in Feb. 1838, to Melinda Blanchard, born Jan. 8, 1817, daughter of Nathaniel and Mercy (Bennett) Blanchard. They moved soon after their marriage to Milwaukee, Wisc. Melinda died there Nov. 11, 1862, and Oliver moved to St. Joseph, Mo., where he died Sept. 15, 1871.

CHILDREN

CORNELIA L., born in Feb. 1840; died some time after 1908, single.

ADELAIDE, born Oct. 7, 1842; married H.S. Harbough on May 1, 1868.

CAROLINE, born April 9, 1844; married William K. Noyes on May 1, 1868.

GEORGE B., born Sept. 29, 1847; died July 21, 1863.

HATTIE A., born Oct. 29, 1849; married John S. Welch on Oct. 29, 1868.

EMILY A., born July 5, 1852; married J. W. Merriman.

JESSIE, born May 4, 1855; died in 1860.

OLIVER SMITH JR., born March 3, 1858; married Josephine Knapp.

CHESTER W., born Nov. 1, 1862; married Anna C. McGinty.

Births

BORN—Jan. 25, 1996, Daniel Russell Brodhead, son of Craig and Laurie Brodhead and grandson of Judith (Rathbun) Pignone, who is the daughter of Lawrence¹⁰ Rathbun (Everett⁹ Jerome⁸ Nathan⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN—May 19, 1995, Spencer Caleb Rathbun, son of Nathan and Amanda Rathbun, and grandson of our members Cynthia and Lyle¹⁰ Rathbun (Burt⁹ Bert⁸ Lorenzo⁷ Elon⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

BORN—Jan. 2, 1996, Zachery Thompson Upah, son of Dr. and Mrs. John Upah, grandson of Duane and Sandra Thompson, and great-grandson of our member Fern Thompson, who is the daughter of Richard Milo⁹ Rathbun (Daniel⁸ William⁷ Daniel⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

BORN—Dec. 1, 1995, Beaux Alexander Rathbun, son of Richard and Laurel Rathbun, and grandson of Norma Rathbun and the late Lisle¹⁰ Rathbun (Emmet⁹ George⁸ Vortimer⁷ Lucius⁶ Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

BORN—Oct. 18, 1995, Britta Karen Adams, daughter of Michael and Sharon Adams and granddaughter of our members Mary and K. Haybron Adams. Haybron is the grandson of William Payne Haybron and Martha Ann⁸ Rathburn (John⁷ Ruel⁶ David⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

BORN—Sept. 28, 1995, Nathan Howard Dowd, son of Kenneth and Jeanne Dowd and grandson of our members Howard and Betty Troth. Betty is the granddaughter of Franklin Morey and Sarah Ann⁷ Rathbun (Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹).

BORN—Dec. 23, 1995, Morgan Leigh Monson, daughter of Stacy and Ronald E. Monson III, and great-granddaughter of our charter member Susie Carter Baston. Susie is the daughter of Arthur Carter and Melinda⁸ Rathbun (Hallett⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN—Nov. 2, 1995, John Patrick Arsenberg, son of Timothy and Deanne (Rathbun) Arsenberg, and grandson of our members Delilah and Don A.¹⁰ Rathbun (Paul⁹ John⁸ Elon⁷ John⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). Young John has a sister Margaret Emma, aged two.

Corrections

In our Spring Historian (page 15), we omitted a son of William W. Rathbun. His son Charles Joshua Rathbun was born Sept. 1, 1860, and married Bridget Shea. His brother, George, was married twice—to Ida May Cole and then to Margaret Keenan. Also, their mother, Harriet Terry Rathbun, died Feb. 7, 1905, not in 1875. Thanks to Lydia Littlefield.

Maude Ann, daughter of Samuel Carpenter⁷ Rathbun (John⁶ Gideon⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), did not marry John Knox as her second husband. (Historian of Fall 1995, page 32). Our thanks to Ruth Kiteley.

The Ellen L. Rathbun who appeared in the 1900 census at Norwich, Conn., was not the widow of Elias T. Rathbun but probably the divorced wife of Reuben Brown⁷ Rathbun. (Historian of July 1993, page 43).

In our Fall 1995 Historian, page 37, we omitted the children of Albert Miner⁷ Rathbun by his third wife, Rhoda Browning. Their children were as follows:

MARY M., born March 8, 1865; married Almond Wythey Aug. 16, 1879.

WILLIAM A., born May 1, 1867; died Aug. 14, 1869.

EDWARD E., born March 15, 1869; married Mary E. Hammond, and possibly Margaret Corning (according to Cooley).

SARAH, born Oct. 24, 1872; married J. Handin.

JANE, born March 1870; single in 1900.

ALBERT E., born March 8, 1880; married Jennie Chester.

New Data

Joseph Rathbun, son of Allen⁶ Rathbun (Josiah⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), (Historian of Oct. 1988, page 61), was married June 30, 1885, in Grenville, Ontario, to Mary Jane LaFajor, 27, daughter of Joseph and Mary LaFajor.

The wife of Eldridge⁶ Rathbun (Robert⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), was Harriet Boxer, according to the wedding record of their son James. (Historian of Oct. 1989, page 62).

John Rathbun, probable son of Joseph⁵ Rathbun (George⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹), (Historian of Jan. 1991, page 11), apparently had a previously unknown son named Charles, born about 1836. Charles, a weaver, then 39, was married March 29, 1876, in Cavan, Ontario, to Theresa (Davidson) Hills, widow of William Hills. According to his marriage record, he was born in New York, the son of John and Mary Rathbun. Our thanks for these three items to Rob Rathbun, who is researching Canadian marriage records.

Rebecca Pearl, second wife of Joseph Sharp⁶ Rathbun (Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), was the daughter of Frank and Polly (Pearl) Wyatt, and the widow of Joel Pearl. Her daughter by the first marriage, Polly N. Pearl, was listed with Joseph and Rebecca in the 1850 census. (Historian of July 1986, page 42.) Joseph's son, Rev. Davis Lincoln Rathbun (1838-1928), was graduated in 1861 from Central College, a Methodist-Episcopal institution at Lafayette, Mo. (Historian of Jan. 1994, page 11).

Elizabeth Mary Pierce, wife of Asher Deming⁷ Rathbun (Christopher⁶ Jonathan⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), was the daughter of Freeman and Mary (Baker) Pierce, (Historian of July 1993, page 43).

Mary Jane Gates, first wife of Oliver Martin⁷ Rathbone (Martin⁶ Joshua⁵⁻⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), was born Feb. 11, 1832, and died March 24, 1872. They were apparently divorced by 1862, when he remarried. Historian of January 1993, page 11. Our thanks to Loren W. Marvin.

In our July 1982 Historian, page 44, we said that Roger⁴ Rathbun (Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), had other children in addition to those listed. One of these others was a son Henry, born about 1788, who applied for a seaman's certificate on Feb. 14, 1808, aged 18, born in North Kingstown, R.I. He probably died at sea.

George C. Rathbone, son of Harvey Tate⁷ Rathbone (Ira⁶ Edmund⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), married Myrtle E. Ford. They apparently had no children. (Historian of Fall 1995, page 35).

The middle name of Thomas Rathbun, son of Jonathan Francis⁷ Rathbun (William⁶ Gideon⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), was probably Roe not Robert. (Historian of Fall 1995, page 32).

Lewis David Rathburn, son of David Lewis⁷ Rathburn (Lewis⁶ David⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), married Martha Warner. (Historian of Fall 1995, page 33). Our thanks for these three items to Rob Rathbun.

In our Historian of April 1990, page 27, we reported that Sarah, daughter of Joshua⁴ Rathbun (Joshua³ John²⁻¹), married George Thurston and then Sands Niles. This information, from old family records, appears to be in error. Sarah, born in 1753, was George Thurston's second wife and died Sept. 19, 1817, in Hopkinton, R.I. Thurston died 10 years later. It is quite possible that Sarah first married Sands Niles, since she was about 39 when she married Thurston.

William⁶ Rathbun, son of William⁵ (Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), died in 1888 at East Garafraxia, Ontario. His will was probated there on December 12, 1888. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Elsie Rathbun, daughter of Edmund⁴ Rathbun (John³⁻¹), was born about 1775 and was married in the late 1790s to Edward Robinson. (Historian of January 1982, page 15). Her husband died about 1805, leaving her with five small children. She died Dec. 21, 1832, aged 57, and is buried in the Cutler Cemetery at Ames Township, Athens County, Ohio.

Betsey and Calesta Burleson, wives of Reuben Matteson⁷ Rathbun (Willett⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻¹), were daughters of Francis W. and Mary (Laughton) Burleson. (Spring Historian, page 11).

Eunice Fuller, wife of Solomon⁵ Rathbun (Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), was born Dec. 15, 1764, in Monson, Mass., daughter of Peter and Submit (Miller) Fuller. (Historian of January 1984, page 11). Thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Laura (Brown) Rathbun, widow of Alfred⁵ Rathbun (Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), died July 23, 1870, aged 73 years, one month and 25 days, according to her gravestone in the Power Cemetery, three miles north and a quarter mile west of Arabela, Mo. Based on this, her calculated date of birth was May 28, 1797. In our Historian of January 1985, page 14, we gave her death date as 1874, and her birth in 1792. Also, Alfred and Laura probably were the parents of another daughter, Elizabeth, born June 12, 1825, who married John H. McCaslin and died July 16, 1875. Elizabeth, her daughter Laura and son John are buried in the Rathbun Cemetery near Arabela. George Rathbun, listed as a possible son of Alfred and Laura, belongs to a different family. Our thanks to Eileen (Rathbun) Goetz, a descendant, who sent us photographs of the gravestones.

Billings⁷ Rathbun (Jonathan⁶ Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) was married to Prudence (or Prudentia) Marble on Feb. 10, 1842. She was born July 18, 1825, (Historian of October 1993, page 61). Our thanks to our member Mary Bywater, a descendant.

Obituaries

DIED—Feb. 19, 1996, Clarence V. Rathbun, 83, of Shoreham, Vt. He was the son of Clarence⁸ Rathbun (Isaiah⁷ Christopher⁶ Jonathan⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). He is survived by two sons, Robert and William Rathbun; a daughter, Janet Palmer; six grandchildren; three sisters, Mary Sheffield, Annie Hall and his twin sister Janet Prout.

DIED—April 3, 1996, Milton Wheeler Rathbun, 82, a member of our Association. He was the son of Winfred⁹ Rathbun (Dutee⁸ George⁷ Joshua⁶ Acors⁵ Joshua⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; sons Charles and Richard; daughters Victoria and Lisa; five grandchildren; a sister, Muriel Mercer, member of our Association; brothers Donald and Russell, a member of our Association.

DIED—April 30, 1996, Eunice Fern Anderson, 99, at Gladstone, Ore. She was the last surviving child of David Eugene⁸ Rathbone (Nathan⁷ Amos⁶⁻⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). Survivors include three children and numerous grandchildren.

DIED—June 24, 1996, Marlow C. Rathbun, 65, at Poway, Calif. He was the son of Clarence⁹ Rathbun (Clarence⁸ John⁷ Gamaliel⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻² John¹). A member of our Association, he is survived by his wife, Leamora; two daughters, Janice Teixeira and Marla Sanders; a son, Richard; foster son George Ramage; six grandchildren; a sister, Mary Ewing, and a brother, Clarence Rathbun. He was a retired sheriff's lieutenant and former security officer at the Del Mar Race Track.

DIED—April 29, 1996, Earl I. Smith, husband of Frances Mary¹⁰ Rathburn (Ralph⁹ Olive⁸ Benjamin⁷ Alvin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). He is survived by his wife, to whom he had been married 50 years, and three children.

DIED—March 7, 1996, William Frederick Marsh, 87, at Madison, Wisc. He was a descendant of Nathan Brainard and Salinda⁶ Rathbun (Abel⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). A member of our Association, he is survived by his wife, Louise; three sons, William Jr., David and Roger; a daughter Carol Walker, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

DIED—March 16, 1996, Herbert Wilson Rathbun Jr., 50, of Putnam, Conn. He was the son of Herbert Wilson⁹ Rathbun (Thomas⁸ William⁷ Nathan⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He is survived by his wife, Ruth; three sons, Joseph, Herbert, and Adam; several half-brothers and sisters; and one granddaughter.

DIED—April 10, 1996, Irene Elizabeth (Rathbun) Weaver, 87, of Muskegon, Mich. She was the widow of Earl Weaver, who died in 1977, and daughter of Edgar⁸ Rathbun (Francis⁷ Lucius⁶ Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). She is survived by three sons and a daughter; 19 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren.

DIED—Feb. 7, 1996, Ted Rathbun, 85, of Wichita, Kansas. He was the son of Izella⁹ Rathbun (Porter⁸ John⁷⁻⁶ Robert⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He is survived by two daughters, Connie Kreider and Joyce Rathbun; five sisters, Fern Seibel, Beth Haas, Verna Lafalier, Mable Thompson and Margie Eckleberry, and one granddaughter.

DIED—May 30, 1996, Marjorie J. Rathburn, 86, at Johnstown, N.Y. She was the widow of Frank W.¹⁰ Rathburn (Harrison⁹ William⁸ Samuel⁷ Joseph⁶ Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). She is survived by a son, Robert H. Rathburn, three grandchildren, and five sisters.

DIED—April 12, 1996, Lucy Mariette (Clark) Rathburn, 94, at Battle Creek, Mich. She was the widow of Herbert⁹ Rathburn (Nathan⁸ Pearson⁷ Joseph⁶⁻⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹).

DIED—May 28, 1996, Harold E. Rathbun, 65, of Morenci, Mich. He was the son of George Edward⁹ Rathbun (Rufus⁸ Segester⁷ Isaac⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He is survived by his wife, Betty; two sons, William and Gary; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; sisters Leona Yutsy, Gertrude Downing, Jean Reckner and Carol Keefer, and brothers Nolan and Elwood Rathbun.

We have just learned of the death of Velva Mervel (Rathburn) Gaudern, 92, last surviving child of Oliver Sherman⁸ Rathburn (Benjamin⁷ Alvin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). She died Nov. 20, 1993, at Cheyenne, Wyo., leaving eight children; 34 grandchildren; 75 great-grandchildren and 15 great-great-grandchildren—a total of 132 living descendants. Our thanks to Dolly Rathburn.

In our Fall 1995 Historian, on page 23, we mentioned an Edward Rathbun who was killed in World War II. It was actually Edward Rathburn, born Feb. 9, 1906, the son of Earl⁹ Rathburn (William⁸ Samuel⁷ Joseph⁶ Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He was killed in action on April 12, 1945, in Germany. Our thanks to Mildred Rathburn.

In our Spring obituaries, Vilma Rathbun was not a widow, but is survived by her husband. Our apologies to him and our thanks to Leamora Rathbun.

Celeste Maria Rathbone, daughter of Charles Edward⁶ Rathbone (Samuel⁵ John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), died September 24, 1951, aged 95, in Los Angeles, Calif. Her death certificate gives her birthdate as Sept. 17, 1856, not 1857, as we reported in our Historian of April 1988, page 29.

Henrietta Rathbone, wife of George Benjamin⁷ Rathbone (Martin⁶ Joshua⁵⁻⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), died Feb. 9, 1838, aged 98, and is buried in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester, Conn. (Historian of January 1993, page 11). Our thanks to Loren Marvin.

People

HEATHER M. RATHBURN and Michael E. Gualano were married July 6, 1996, at Johnstown, N.Y. Heather is the daughter of our members Mildred and Gaal¹⁰ Rathburn (William⁹⁻⁸ Samuel⁷ Joseph⁶ Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

SUSIE CARTER BASTON was chosen to present the flag of Wisconsin this month (October) in the "Roll Call of the States" during a celebration at Fitzgerald, Georgia. She presented the flag in honor of her grandfather, Hallet Rathbun, a Civil War veteran who was one of the pioneers of Fitzgerald after the war. Eight of Hallet's granddaughters, all over 80, are still living. He was the son of Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

WILLIAM RATHBURN was director of security for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. A former member of our Association, he is a lifetime police officer, having been deputy police chief in Los Angeles and chief in Dallas, Texas. He is descended from the North Carolina Rathbones whom we cannot identify.

SANDRA RATHBUN was elected a trustee of York Township, Sandusky County, Ohio, in the elections last November. Sandra, 62, is the wife of William¹¹ Rathbun (Hollis¹⁰ Harry⁹ Chaplin⁸ Saxton⁷ Chaplin⁶ Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

GAYLE RATHBUN has been named executive director of the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, N.Y. He was formerly director of the Dallas (Texas) Zoological Society. He is the son of George⁹ Rathbun (Lewis⁸ William⁷ John⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

TAMI LYNN RATHBUN and Brian Rua were married February 14, 1996. She is the daughter of Lester¹⁰ Rathbun (Leonard⁹ William⁸ John⁷⁻⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) of West Greenwich, R.I.

Our New Members

Anne Hadridge
San Diego, Calif.

Anne E. Nicholson
Parlin, N.J.

Mary Ann Odle
Flint, Mich.

Bruce B. Rathbone IV
Jacksonville, Fla.

Donald R. Rathburn
West Branch, Mich.

Gayle L. Rathbun
Pittsford, N.Y.

Raymond Otis Rathbun
Ward Cove, Alaska

Marianne Richard
Ocala, Fla.

Bruce Webb
Annapolis, Md.

Elizabeth M. Wilson
Wakefield, R.I.

SCOTT CHRISTOPHER RATHBUN and Abbie Joelle Richardson were married Sept. 9, 1995. He is the son of Robert¹⁰ Rathbun (Ernest⁹ George⁸ Jeremiah⁷ Robert⁶ Samuel⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

CHARLES RATHBUN of Hope Valley, R.I., reports another genealogical scam. He received in the mail a postcard from the "Principality of Hutt River, Queensland, Australia," offering him a "Royal Award from His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent, Prince Kevia." All Rathbun had to do was send a \$10 check and sign an "Oath of Confirmation." He was told the award "could mean fame and fortune." He decided to pass on the offer and sent the card to your editor.

ROBERT AND BETTY TROTH would like to correspond with descendants of Acors⁶ Rathbun (Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹); of his brother Benjamin Bagnal Rathbun, and their aunt Anna Rathbun, who married Joseph Lawton. Betty is a descendant of Acors. The Troths are planning to write a history of this branch of the family. Their address is 18 Saint Charles Square, Huntsville, Ala. 35801-2848.

The maiden name of Martha, wife of Samuel⁷ Rathbun (Edmund⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), was Richardson, according to the death record of her son Perry Z. Rathbun, who was born July 27, 1853. Martha had previously been married, on Nov. 3, 1838, to Samuel Hinch, which means that she was probably born about 1820, not 1825, as we had speculated in our Spring 1995 Historian. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Reunion

Descendants of Henry Howe Rathbun and Estelle (Masters) Rathbun gathered for a family reunion August 9-11 at Dearborn, N.Y. The 65 persons in attendance included two surviving daughters, Edith Roberts and Estelle Innocent, and Robert B. Rathbun, a grandson and member of our association. Henry Howe Rathbun (1891-1948) was the son of Charles Amory⁸ Rathbun (William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).