

The Rathbone



Family Historian.

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Rathbone, Editor.



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Miss Antoinette Rathbone,

Associates.

THE RATHBONE FAMILY HISTORIAN.

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HON. JOHN T. RATHBUN.

The Rathbones were an old and strong English family, a prominent one, John, being a merchant in Liverpool, England, during the early part of the century. He was a bachelor and left an estate valued at something near \$63,000,000. A capacity for money getting and money keeping has always been a marked one in the Rathbone family. There was a custom, too, in the family to name one of the sons John, and it is certain that wherever a branch of the family may be located or in whatever generation, there will a John be found.

The Hon. John Tobey Rathbun, of Elmira, N. Y., is no exception to the rule, and it will be recollected that among his children there was also a John, a generous-hearted, active young man, who died early in life, but not before he had demonstrated the possession of qualities that would have made him a successful business man had he lived.

The Hon. John T. Rathbun, one of Elmira's most prominent and worthy citizens, belongs to the Rathbone family of which I have written, the change in the spelling having been made by his father, who always signed his name with ~~son~~, as he expressed it. Some of his brothers, however, clung to the ~~son~~. This gentleman's name was

John Z., and he was a native of Lee, Mass., in the neighborhood of which place his ancestors from England settled, a generation or two before. He was a physician and early in life emigrated to Ballston, N. Y., where he practiced his profession with a good measure of success for forty years.

In 1822 he removed to the town of Scipio, Cayuga county, N. Y., where he continued in his business for another twenty years, and until his age forbade any further labors in that direction. He died in Elmira in 1867 at the great age of ninety-eight years. Dr. Rathbun's wife was born in Lee, Mass., her maiden name having been Celia Tcbey. She lived to be eighty years of age, dying in the town of Scipio.

John T. Rathbun, bearing one of the christian names of his father, and the family name of his mother, was born in Ballston, Saratoga county, N. Y., March 8, 1810. There were three sons and six daughters in the family and Mr. Rathbun was the second son. Both of his brothers followed the profession of their father and became physicians, taking up their residences and making their homes in the same county in Illinois; Valentine, in Harrisburg, McLean county, and Lorenzo in McLeansburg. Mr. Rathbun received his education in Ballston and in Scipio, and had all the advantages that the neigh-

borhood of the two places possessed. Arriving at his majority, he selected farming as his avocation and entered upon its pursuits with all the zeal and enthusiasm that has marked his whole career. His farm in the town of Scipio under his personal management, was for thirty years one of the thriftiest spots in all central New York.

He was especially successful in grain-raising and sheep breeding. It was before the great wheat fields of the West had begun to be the granaries of the world, and central New York furnished much of that cereal for the markets. The business was remunerative and profitable. In comparison with the enormous acreage of the present day, it may be small, but in those days the hundred acres of wheat that Mr. Rathbun annually raised was a matter of considerable moment attracting notice and deserving remembrance.

As a member of the old whig party, Mr. Rathbun early took interest in politics, and was an energetic leader in his locality. The prominence that he enjoyed and the confidence reposed in him by his neighbors is clearly shown by the fact that he served for seven terms as the supervisor from his town, and for two years was the chairman of the board.

In 1845 he was elected member of the assembly, from Cayuga county, and was re-elected the following year, serving in the legislature of 1846 and 1847. He was a great admirer and personal friend

of the Hon. Wm. H. Seward, following him into the Republican party and sustaining him with his influence and vote.

In 1835 Mr. Rathbun married Maria, the daughter of Jesse Reed, one of the prominent citizens of Auburn. She died in 1846. There were four children born to the couple; George R., John H., Mary E., and one that died in infancy. Only one of these is living, the first named. The daughter, Mary, married Samuel R. Van Campen, at one time a banker in Elmira. She was a most estimable woman, winning the admiration of all for her sweetness of disposition, and at the same time possessing a character that for its vigor, independence and strength is rarely met with. She died June 17, 1891, leaving two sons, Samuel R. Van Campen Jr., and John Rathbun Van Campen, who promise to carry down to posterity the characteristics of their mother with the manly and earnest qualities of their grandfather.

John H., the son of Mr. Rathbun, best known in Elmira, died January 8, 1880.

It was during Mr. Rathbun's second term in the assembly that he met in Albany the lady that subsequently became his wife, Sarah M. Benjamin, the only child of Simeon Benjamin, of Elmira. The marriage was solemnized in the latter part of the year 1847. Three sons were born of this marriage: Simeon Benjamin Rathbun, William R. Rathbun and Louis G. Rathbun. A daughter named for the mother, Sarah



Eng. by F. S. Hammond

J. T. Rathbun

M. Rathbun, died early in life.

After a life governed by the most generous impulses and full of animating spirit of the truest christianity, Mrs. Rathbun died January 27, 1888, in Florida, whither she had gone to escape the rigors of an Elmira winter. The memory of her many virtues will long remain among the local treasures and recollections of Elmira life.

All of her sons are conspicuous in the business, social and political life of the city and county. Mrs. Rathbun's father, at the time of her marriage, enjoyed the reputation, without any question, of being the wealthiest man in the city of Elmira. He was beginning to age somewhat, and she was the only representative that he would leave when he passed away. Mr. Rathbun was finally persuaded to give up his home in Cayuga county and come to Elmira, which he did in 1855. Since that year probably no man in the city has been so largely engaged in real estate there or has been the mover and originator of so many successful enterprises. He was an Elmiran from his first coming there. It was to be his future and permanent home and all of his energies have been directed from the start to make the town one of the liveliest and best in the state. Almost his first purchase in the city, and certainly his first large investment, was what was at the time called the "Brainard House," named subsequently after its new owner the "Rathbun House." If Elmira is known abroad at all by any one

of its public institutions, it is certainly the "Rathbun House," and the energy and liberality of Mr. Rathbun have helped immeasurably in bringing about such a result.

It is largely due to Mr. Rathbun that Elmira enjoys its present fine system of public schools. They would undoubtedly have come in time but he was the one that originated the movement, pushed it forward with all his zeal, and finally saw his project in successful operation. He should have the credit therefore. He was made a trustee of the academy in a year or two after he became a citizen of Elmira, and at one of the meetings of the board offered a resolution looking to the introduction of free schools. He was not exactly hooted at, but quietly ignored as a stranger coming among them with strange notions. Representing as he did an estate that paid more taxes than any other single interest in the village, his efforts was finally looked upon with favor as he continued to press the matter. Four years after he became an Elmiran he had the satisfaction of seeing passed, an act of the legislature providing for public schools substantially as they are now, and in the direct line of the resolution he had presented to the board of trustees of the Academy.

To tell in full the business life of Mr. Rathbun would almost be to tell the history of every large business enterprise of the city of Elmira for the last thirty or forty years. He was active

in the management of the Chenning Railroad, that portion of the Northern Central now lying between Elmira and Watkins; was a director of the company for nine years and its president six years. He was a director of the company owning the road from Watkins to Canandaigua for nine years, worked zealously and actively for the construction of what is now the Tioga branch of the Erie road and was one of the first directors of the company. He was among the first to engage in the original business of the rolling mills and was one of the trustees of the company for ten years. He has been connected with the La France Manufacturing Company from the start, one of its trustees since its organization and for six years its president. In 1880 Mr. Rathbun was appointed one of the commissioners of the Elmira Reformatory by Governor Cornell and served in that capacity for six years, his colleagues in the board being the Hon. John J. Nicks, Dr. William C. Wey and Stephen T. Arnot, Esq. During the war Mr. Rathbun was an earnest and zealous sympathizer with the efforts of the government to put down the armed attack upon the Union, and was liberal in the use of his large means to forward the righteous cause. By advancing and becoming surety for considerable sums of money in the early part of the struggle when funds were needed immediately to equip soldiers for the service, and the slow machinery of the state failed to make

the prompt response that was required, Mr. Rathbun made it possible to send whirling to the front in advance of other bodies of men from his neighborhood and some other neighborhoods too, the Twenty-third Regiment.*

With all these things and numerous lesser enterprises, Mr. Rathbun has had the management of the estate of his father-in-law, Simeon Benjamin, one of the largest ever accumulated in the county, and connected with which were many bequests to benevolent institutions, the proper distribution of which requires the utmost care and thoughtfulness. In all of them there has not been the least friction or misunderstanding, the statement of which is a monument to Mr. Rathbun's business capacity and integrity. With the care of one of Mr. Benjamin's largest bequests Mr. Rathbun has been intimately associated for more than thirty years. This is the Elmira College, the existence of which was made possible by Mr. Benjamin's munificence. As long as Mr. Rathbun lives he will probably be thus associated, his experience and judgment aiding in a marked manner in furthering the aims and ends of the institution. Not only as we have seen in the political, business and educational interest of the city, has Mr. Rathbun been prominent and influential, but in the religious interests of the community. For more than twenty-five years he has been one of the trustees of the First Presbyterian Church, and has held the prosperity and usefulness of

that organization as one of the most cherished purposes of his life. And now at a period of life somewhat past eighty years, but years that weigh so lightly upon him that they seem to be less than the true number by fully a quarter of a century, Mr. Rathbun is to be seen daily at his modest office on Baldwin St., as keen in his business instincts and projects as though life was just beginning for him, his eye as bright and clear as it ever was, and his mind as active and fresh as it was when he was evolving enterprises in his early history that have made him such rich returns; or at his beautiful home on Lake St., where the most generous hospitality has always reigned, and where all the refinements and comforts that great wealth can procure are in tasteful abundance.

Many men have come and gone; have lived lives in lines and directions as it has been given them to see it; have been of value and importance to the communities in which their lots were cast, but there are few in Elmira whose personality and influence, whose instincts and performances, will better bear the scrutiny or more richly merit the applause of those who follow them than John T. Rathbun, when after his name has been written the word *FURT*.

*When President Lincoln called for 75,000 troops, Mr. Rathbun with one other gentleman put in a fully equipped regiment of one thousand men, and it was the first one in the field prepared for active service after the call. When

the legislature met they remunerated for all the voluntary regiments in the state.

NOTE.—The above is taken from "A History of the Valley and County of Chenning."—By Asbury Towner.

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MARY J. RATHBONE GILLIDETT.

Daughter of Gideon Rathbone, of Steamboat Rock, Iowa, was born in McLean county Illinois, May the 20th, 1845, where she lived until 1853, when her parents moved to Hardin county, Iowa. At that time Iowa was very much of a frontier country. It was nearly a hundred miles to mill from where they settled, and the first winter was spent in a log house not much over twenty feet square, in which fourteen persons managed to find quarters. Upon this farm, a few years later, her father built the largest frame farm-house in the county, for many years. It was framed from oak timbers eight inches square, and built much more substantial than many large barns are at the present time. The house is still among the largest and best in the county, and is owned by O. C. Rathbone, a brother of our subject.

Jan. 7, 1866, she married Miles S. Gillidett, with whom she moved to Harrison county Mo., in the spring of 1867, locating upon a farm eight miles northwest of Bethany, the county seat, where they lived for four years.

Mr. Gillidett having been elected sheriff of the county, they moved to Bethany, which was their home for

fifteen years, during which time he served three terms as county sheriff.

He was quite an active republican, and filled the office very creditably to himself and satisfactorily to his constituents. After retiring from that position they purchased another farm a few miles from Bethany where they now live.

Mrs. Gillidett is the mother of eight children, all living, and they have been left mostly to her care for training and nurture, as her husband's duties have kept him much of the time away from home. In 1874 she united with the Christian church and has been a consistent worker in that body, in her family and the community ever since. Since retiring from office Mr. Gillidett has chosen the ministry as a profession and is now laboring in that field, and finds in the companionship of his wife, much courage and devotion, which strengthens and encourages him in his work.

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EARLY HISTORY.

The following extracts are taken from *The Old Merchants of New York City*, compiled by Walter Barrett, and published in 1863. They are furnished by Mr. John Rathbun Van Campen, to whom we are indebted for many favors.

The store of H. Booraem & Co. was in Pearl St. near Wall. His partner was Jacob Rathbun, at one time considered the handsomest man in New York, save one. That one was handsome Harry Howe.

I have mentioned the names of strong

merchants that have contributed during the last war with England, in 1813, to support the Federal Government, and sustain it vigorously. Upon the list will be found the names of John Rathbone & Son for \$20,000.

That house was in existence and did business in 1804—long before the war and long after. Its patriotism prospered it, and has not deserted the name now, for John Rathbone No. 3, great-grandson of the old founder, still does business under the firm name of Rathbone & Havens, at No. 11 Nassau St.

When the House first started, it was at No. 96 Front St., and the old gentleman lived at 45 Dey St., a fashionable part of the town in 1805. He was born in Stonnington, Ct., in 1751 and returned to this city soon after the close of the Revolutionary war. He clerked it for some time, as is usual with Connecticut boys, and then entered on his own hook about 1795. He died in 1843, in this city, ninety-two years old. He had two sons and one daughter.

His eldest son, John Rathbone, Jr. who was taken into the concern of John Rathbone & Co. in 1804, was a gentleman of extraordinary good sense and sound information. He was a member of our State legislature in 1823, and made a reputation for himself in politics.

John Rathbone & Son were largely engaged in the salt trade as well as in general merchandising. All their operations were upon an immense scale, and were conducted with such sagacity

and prudence as to yield the two partners a handsome fortune. The Rathbones, father and son, were warm supporters of the Government, and would have sacrificed every dollar they had if the United States had needed it. Their names stand at the head of the list published a short time ago.

Saml. B. Ruggles, ex-canal commissioner, etc., married the youngest daughter of old Mr. Rathbone, and of course, was a brother-in-law of John Jr., and Thomas. The two were very active in getting a charter and establishing the present Bank of Commerce.

Both were among the first directors elected. Thomas Rathbone died early. He left a son named E. Beverly Rathbone. He married a daughter of Capt. Whetton, of the Sailors Snug Harbor. E. B. Rathbone is dead. He left a son, alluded to as still in business here.

John Rathbun Jr., never married. He died at Albany in 1842. He was on his way to New York. His age was sixty-eight years.

His father the old John who died in 1843, was descended from a brother of Col. John Rathbone, who was a colonel in the Parliamentary army of 1658. He was noted for his devotion to republican principles. So active had been this brave fellow during the civil war, that he was excepted, by name, from the general amnesty for political offences granted by Charles II, when he mounted the throne.

Col. Rathbone escaped pursuit, and took refuge in "Whitefriars", or Alsatia,

where he remained concealed several years. He was finally apprehended, with other ex-officers of the commonwealth, tried at the Old Bailey, found guilty, and with seven other officers beheaded at Tyburn, on the 26th, of April 1666—over 200 years ago. His brother, more fortunate, got over to Connecticut, and was the founder of the old New York MERCHANTS alluded to.

Another of the same old stock and also born in Stonington, was the well known Capt. John Rathbone. For many years he commanded vessels out of this port. What a splendid fellow was Captain Jack. He entered upon a seafaring life at an early age, and was before the mast in the first English packets in 1804. He was destined in after years to command the finest ships in the line.

I do not know how long Captain Jack Rathbone was an apprentice to that old line of Royal names. This I do know: Some eight years later, he commanded a small coasting vessel during the last war with Great Britain, and was one of the foremost in managing "the torpedo affair," with a view of blowing up the British fleet at anchor off his birthplace, old Stonington.

In this enterprise the Captain exhibited the greatest coolness and daring. He afterward commanded several ships and made voyages out of this port to nearly every port in the known world. When ashore he lived at Hester St., at Nos. 81 and 56, from 1815 until 1830.

Captain Rathbone was washed overboard from the ship "Columbus" on the 13th, of January, 1847.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



MISS ANTOINETTE RATHBONE.

April 9, 1867, there was introduced to the family of John Q. Rathbone, the second daughter and fourth child, who was afterward christened Mary Antoinette. She began life with scarcely three pounds of material existence to her credit, but was such a sweet, good-natured baby that she at once became the favorite.

While very young she showed remarkable taste for music and could carry a tune almost before she could talk. She was attacked with disease of the eyes when only four years old and became almost blind before the affliction was brought under control. Much of her time was spent at the organ, during this period and she readily played any ordinary piece of music she heard. Besides this she would sit for hours and execute remarkably beautiful chords and exercises of her own composition which seemed to flit through her mind at the time. She was unable to attend school until about thirteen years old, at which time she began in the village of Steamboat Rock, Iowa,

near where she was born, and which she attended for four years. After regaining her sight and taking up the studies of school, she neglected the musical exercises and has never given that branch the attention it should have had, although she sings very nicely and has a great fondness for the better class of music.

At school she won the approbation of her teachers on account of the zeal and energy she showed, and the originality she displayed. Being naturally loveable and loving in disposition, she was a great favorite with teachers and class-mates, which has aided her very much in all her efforts to make a success of everything upon which her energies are fixed.

She had made such rapid progress in her studies that at the close of the term in the spring of 1884, she was granted a certificate to teach, which she at once began to do with very satisfactory results to herself and patrons.

At the end of two years of teaching she entered the High School at Eldora, Iowa, and mastered the four years course in less than two by tireless application during vacations and while teaching, receiving her diploma in March, 1887, having only spent eleven months in the school.

At a teachers' institute in Eldora during this time, Dr. Parker, the renowned Chicago Normal Teacher, complimented her very highly upon work she exhibited from former pupils which showed that she was in advance of her profes-

sion and leading less original minds.

In January, 1889, she accepted a position in the primary department of the Bowdle, Dakota, schools, which she held for six months, but being far from home she decided to return. The latter part of July the same year she visited relatives in northwest Kansas, where she accepted a school in the town of Herndon, Rawlins county, which she taught until June, 1890. Returning again to her native county in Iowa, she was offered a grade in the Grammar school of Eldora, where she is now, expending her energies to advance the pupils placed in her charge. She has been a member of the Congregational Church, of Eldora, for several years. Miss Rathbone is a very pleasant lady to meet and being possessed of a warm sympathetic nature, makes friends wherever she goes, who never forget her charming sweetness. Her originality makes her the center of much attraction in society where she occupies a position of unassuming gentleness, rather than as a "society girl." She reaches children through their hearts, and her success as a teacher is largely owing to this element in her character. She has two younger brothers and sisters who will "rise up and call her blessed," for the good books she has interested them in, and the useful knowledge with which she is storing their minds.

As conductor of CHILDREN'S CORNER, she will prove a blessing to that portion of our readers.

CHILDRENS' CORNER.

BY ANTOINETTE RATHBONE.

How would the children like to have a corner in *The HISTORIAN* for their very own? I am sure every boy and girl in all our family would enjoy that; and there must be a host of them if we only knew where to find them all.

What a good game of "hide-and-go-seek," or "blind man's buff" we could have if we lived together. I would like to play a game like that—I think I could catch you all pretty quick. What do you think?

We don't know very much about each other now, but I hope we may soon get acquainted through *The HISTORIAN*, at least. And how can we do that? Each one of you write a letter telling who you are, where you live, something about your parents, or your home, or your pets, or just anything you can, and I assure you that your letters will be of great interest to all.

Now, my dear child, this does not mean some one else, it is an invitation to you wherever you live—in the east, west, or right in the center of the U. S.

Let us play a new game "come-and-go-seek." We can come and introduce ourselves, and then "go-seek" for others. Now, who will be the first to send us a letter?

—o—

Master Earl Bigalow and little brother, Carl, of Marshalltown, Iowa, are visiting their cousins, Don and Justus Rathbone, at Eureka, Utah, where they will probably spend the summer.

DEAR COUSINS:—Our home is named Sturdy Oak Farm. It is two miles southeast of Steamboat Rock, Iowa. We have 240 acres of land of which 150 acres is now under cultivation. We have a big pasture which is east of us, so we call it the "east pasture." There are three good springs on our place and a creek too. There is a good place to fish and skate; there is a big woods with lots of rabbits in it. We boys have a gun to shoot them with.

There are some squirrels about the house but we don't allow anyone to shoot them. We put up a sign "No squirrel hunting allowed on these premises" and under it we nailed a picture of a man with his fists doubled up. That always makes the boys laugh. We have plenty of walnuts, hickorynuts, and hazelnuts in the "east pasture" but we have no butternuts. We gathered about 20 bushels of walnuts, but gave about 11 away for some butternuts. We got about a bushel of hickorynuts, and about the same of hazelnuts this year.

We have 11 horses now and about 30 head of cattle. Last year my brother Ralph and I helped on the farm quite a good deal. We helped harvest, thresh, plough and pick corn, so our father gave us each a nice colt. Mine will be a year old in the spring, her birth-day was on Easter Sunday.

Ralph's will be two years old in the spring, and is a fine black one, but mine is a pretty bay.

Last summer my cousin Earl Bigalow

of Marshaltown, came up to see us and stayed a month. We have two big barns to play in and we had lots of fun.

We have our house surrounded on two sides with big pine trees. In front is a large lawn full of oaks, and we have a place to fix a teeter-totter but we took the board out last fall. We have a big pole swing 20 feet high, and my sisters have a hammock.

If some one else will write a letter, we will tell about the picnics we have in our groves, next time.

DON Q. RATHBONE. (age 13).

—o—

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

Mrs. Mary Goddard, of New London, Conn., writes: "We find *The HISTORIAN* most interesting and unique, and take a double interest in it. I may say, since both my husband and myself are of the Rathbone family, being descendants of John Rathbone, the old merchant of New York City, who was born in 1750, and died in 1843. I do not think it was the old gentleman who went abroad, as intimated in your last number, but his son John. I never heard of his trip in connection with searching for a fortune. There was some talk of such estate about twenty years ago, but there are many Rathbones in England and no doubt plenty of claimants.

I have heard my mother speak of her uncle John's travels in Europe, and that he discovered, in Ireland, a Rathbone coat of arms, representing a bee-hive and swarm of bees, as the family has been noted for its industry. We have

an ivory miniature of the old gentleman, John Rathbone. He had a large family, mostly daughters, of whom Eunice was my husband's mother and Clarissa was my mother's mother. My husband's brother, James E. Goddard, of New London, has in his possession some very interesting letters written by John Rathbone, relating to current events, one of which, the opening of the Erie Canal he evidently considered THE event of the century.

If, at any time, I can be of any assistance in adding information relating to those of the family who have passed to the "silent majority," I will be glad to do so.

Mrs. J. E. Snyder, of Eldora, Iowa, writes: "I am greatly interested in the origin of our family name, and was certainly amused when I read my sister's account of it originating from Noah's son. Then again, when I read about the dove and the olive branch being one of the "coat of arms," it struck me very forcibly that surely the name did really come down through all these ages and yet it stands high and has many branches to sustain it. So may it be.

AUBURN, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of the February and March issues of "The RATHBONE FAMILY HISTORIAN." You may rest assured that I am most highly gratified that some one has taken the practical interest made manifest in

your publication, in an ancient and most noble clan. That I am also deeply interested in your work goes without saying. You may count on me for some future material, which I think will prove of some little interest to you and your readers, also hoping you will be able to reprint the first number of the work which I have not received, I am Truly and Fraternally Yours,

FRANK R. RATHBUN.

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PERSONALS.

—Senator Hill made a hard fight against the appointment of Louis G. Rathbun as postmaster of Elmira, N. Y., on account of his prominence as a Republican in that district.

—O. C. Rathbone, of Steamboat Rock, Iowa, is a most successful farmer and business man. He has, by frugality and close application accumulated considerable property. As a stock grower he has few equals.

—C. M. Rathbun, is a rising young dentist, of Fredonia, N. Y. He is a son of Byron Rathbun, the dentist, of Dunkirk, N. Y. It seems that a great many of the family have been successful in the practice of medicine and dentistry.

—Frank R. Rathbun, of Auburn, N. Y., is among the well-wishers of The HISTORIAN. He is a draughtsman and makes a specialty of Crests, Arms, Patent drawings, etc. Persons desiring any of these articles would do well to write him.

—Stuben county, N. Y., has a Rathbone township.

—O. Y. Rathbun is a druggist, located at Whitewright, Texas, being at the head of the firm of O. Y. Rathbun & Co. He belongs to the Rhode Island branch of the family, living in and around Woonsocket.

—W. S. Rathbone has the management of a large farm near Nimeha City Neb. He is a practical man and one well acquainted with all the elements of success in that vocation. Besides this he has been a very successful school teacher for many years.

—G. G. Rathbone, of Eureka, Utah, has recently received the ranks in the order of Knights of Pythias, according to "established custom." Every Rathbone should feel an especial interest in that grand brotherhood and take pride in being a member of it.

—The family of I. F. Rathbone, of Red Oak, Iowa, has been seriously ill during this month. Robert was kicked on the foot by a horse, which developed into a dangerous case of erysipelas. Mortimer has been afflicted with the same disease and Nellie with remitting fever. We are glad to note that they are all about recovered.

—J. Q. Rathbone, of Steamboat Rock, Iowa, took his little daughter Floy, to Chicago, the first of April, with the hope of finding medical aid that would overcome the effects of La Grippe, of which she was a severe sufferer over two years ago, and from which she

never recovered. They met with great encouragement and now have hopes of her cure.

—Mrs. Margaret Rathbun Royce, of Rochelle, Ill., is very much interested in *The HISTORIAN* and will aid the work. She promises to visit its editor, at Oberlin, Kansas, during the summer, if her health permits. She has relatives in Decatur county among whom is David Royce, one of the most substantial and well-to-do farmers of Northwest Kansas.

—C. D. Rathbone, of Belpre, Ohio, is a machinist, engine builder, etc. Also a prominent G. A. R. man and influential citizen. His services in the civil war extended over a period of three years and he was at the front in eleven of the great battles, besides other minor engagements. He has served as Justice of the Peace in his town for over seven years, being still in office.

—Barber Rathbone, of Stephentown, N. Y., was shot by Martin Casey, March 1, last. Casey was a horse-thief eight years ago, and rode into the town attempting to terrorize the inhabitants and rob the stores. At that time he shot John and Orlow Rathbone, brothers of Barber. Both recovered, however, but Casey was sent to the penitentiary. He was only liberated about two weeks before the last shooting took place. He was arrested and held to answer for this second crime. His victim is reported to be dangerously wounded but we have not learned what his chances of recovery are.

LATER.—Mr. Rathbun died shortly after the fatal shot was fired. His wife writes that "he died a christian."

—Mr. and Mrs. Alfred D. Rathbone, of Grand Rapids, Mich., spent the week at the Richilien, Chicago.

—E. G. Rathbun, proprietor of the Head Light Farm, near Ellis, Neb., is a breeder of ornamental as well as useful poultry.

—Mrs. Mary Crowell, daughter of Sarah Rathbone Benedict, of Cleveland, Ohio, is at present stopping in the World's Fair City.

—A. J. Rathbun, chief clerk in the division, passenger and freight department of the Milwaukee, died in Mason City, Iowa, April 12.

—Benjamin Rathbun, of Cedar Bluffs, Kan., recently lost a large quantity of hay and feed, by a prairie fire which swept over his ranch.

—Myron H. Hopkins, grandson of the late Alfred D. Rathbone, is a book-keeper at Gerts, Lombard & Co., Chicago, Ill., and resides at Irving Park, Ill.

—Theodore H. Rathbone, a former resident of Grand Rapids, Mich., is now Bill Inspector for the "Pan Handle" R. R., and has decided to make Chicago his permanent home.

Amos M. Rathbun, of Grand Rapids, Mich., son of the late Gouvenour B. Rathbun, is an expert horseman, and has this year the management of C. H. Nelson's stock farm, in Waterville, Maine, and is training some promising young colts.

—Chas. P. Rathbun, son of Lansing K. Rathbun, of Grand Rapids, Mich., has succeeded his brother-in-law, and will now run the grocery business. We do not imagine, however, that his real estate and insurance business will suffer from his increased duties, as he is an active and capable business man.

—A large audience was present at the public school entertainment last night. The entertainment was good, in fact it was in our judgment the best, taking everything into consideration, that has been given by the schools. Much credit for the success is due the assistant principal, Mrs Wilde, and also Mrs. Joe Hardin and Miss Etta Rathbone.—ELDORA (IOWA) LEDGER.

Among the connections of the Rathbun family who have become interested in the HISTORIAN are: Haddens S. Gibbs, a prominent resident of Greenville, Mich., who married Elizabeth, daughter of the late Charles Rathbun; and George E. Gerts, head of the firm of Gerts, Lombard & Co., wholesale brush manufactures, of Chicago, Ill., who married Mary A., another daughter of the late Charles Rathbun.

—SOLILOQUY:—"If I would try I could send two or three little 'Personals' to The HISTORIAN which some of my family would see, and be pleased with; besides it would aid in the work, and there is no reason why I should not do so. I'll do it too—There! Well, I WILL and make the editor ~~~."

[A Rathbone's word is as good as his bond. Ed.]

THE RATHBONE FAMILY HISTORIAN.

F. P. RATHBONE, Editor.

Associates:

Geo. A. Rathbun,
1800 Washington, Av., Chicago.Miss Antonette Rathbone,
Eldora, Iowa.

Others wanted!

IN AN EDITORIAL WAY.

SPRING.

There's beauty in the smiling spring,
And in warm summer days.
Oh, how to life our hearts do cling;
How destitute of praise.

The earth in beauty will again
With living green be blest,
And on the hills and o'er the plain,
All in rich verdure drest.

The warbling of the feathered throng,
Is music to our ears;
Oh, how it thrills to hear their song,
It dissipates our fears.

With gratitude to God above,
Our offerings we will bring,
As he remembers all in love,
And blesses us with spring.

—P. RATHBONE.

Sinclearville, April 13, 1847.

WANTED.—Some letters from our
little people for the next number.

There is a funny little fellow calling himself "Cousin Jeff" who will be a regular contributor to the CORNER, writing sometimes in verse, sometimes in prose. His first article will appear in the next issue. "Cousin Jeff" is twelve years old but will not allow me to tell you anything more about himself.

[This should have been in the CORNER but came one day too late, so we give it space here. ED.]

There seems to be a misunderstanding by some as to the nature of the intentions of The HISTORIAN. As before mentioned Mr. John C. Cooley of Oswego, N. Y., has been working upon a Genealogical History of the family for some time and has very nearly completed his search. This was not known to the writer until he had prepared the blank forms that many of the readers have received. These have been sent out in order to get all the knowledge possible from each family. The request for sketches, is made in order to get material for publication, and the records are intended for future reference and to assist in getting correct dates. It has been our aim to avoid conflicting in any manner with Mr. Cooley's work and if blanks have been sent to any who feel under obligations to him or prefer to let him have their records, it is entirely satisfactory to us. The Rathbone Family is too magnanimous to allow any differences to arise in a matter of this kind. No one wishes Mr. Cooley greater success than the editor of this magazine, who hopes he will use its columns and matter freely if it will in any way aid him, only asking credit where it is due.

For the present we prefer short articles and sketches, those not making more than three or four pages, unless they can be divided and run in two or more issues. Later the number of pages will be increased, or smaller type used, as it is quite evident that sixteen

pages will not be enough to contain the interesting matter that will be contributed.

While sketches are very desirable, news items are in great demand. We naturally want to know what our friends are doing at the present time, as well as what they have done in the past. The only way to get these will be for each one to consider himself or herself a "special correspondent" and acquaint us with current events.

The "Personals" this month are assuming desirable proportions, and many have written that they enjoy that part very much as they hear about friends in that way that they would not otherwise. We should have an associate in Elmira, New York City, New London, Albany, St. Louis, Denver, and all other places where there is a number of the family. Who will volunteer?

Such generosity as is shown by Hon. J. T. Rathbun will lead any man straight up to fame and success. He is one of the strongest pillars of our good name and if enough Rathbone's will take him for a model the name will become famous indeed. Can any one look upon that face and not involuntarily exclaim, "honesty itself." A character like that can only be carved out by the most scrupulous integrity. His portrait will be greatly appreciated by all who receive it. The plate from which it is made is a very costly work

of art, and its use for this publication was furnished by Mr. Rathbun, to whom we are greatly indebted and sincerely thankful.

We are grateful to our Chicago associate for a splendid photograph. It wouldn't take much of a physiognomist to discover the qualities in that face, that will ultimately make life a success in whatever vocation he may choose. Every line and feature bespeaks culture, refinement and honor. He will make a history for himself and will be known by qualities of his own.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS:—
Under this head we trust a true record will be promptly reported for publication. This will begin a Record which may, in after years, be valuable. Let marriage notices be concise, giving short sketches of the contracting parties and the interesting points of the ceremony, with an outline of the presents, etc., not going into details as to names of guests except those of the family, unless to mention especially distinguished persons.

The editor is open to criticism, and invites any suggestion that will tend to make this magazine truly the family "organ." Time and experience with proper support and encouragement will work wonders in the improvement, usefulness and value of the work. A comparison of this number with the first will prove that it is growing in the

hands of the editor, as well as the hearts of its readers. With the illustrations given this month and others already for next, with promises from several others, there is a good prospect of this feature becoming a very prominent one.

Several have signified their intention of preserving the Magazines and having them bound when the volume is complete. This will give them a vast amount of history that can be consulted in after years, which will always be interesting. Does any other publication come to your home, that you read every word of, then read it over again, as you do *The HISTORIAN*? It is a series of letters from the family, which could not be otherwise than welcome. It will be but a short time until we can begin to trace out the particular branch of the family to which we belong. Thus far it has been difficult to follow up a line as records have been from widely separated families. This has been given intentionally, in part, that many may become interested. Almost every letter received, promises to aid in the work in anyway possible. To which we would like to reply by a personal letter, and will as soon as possible, but in the mean time, please send something, that there may be a good selection always on hand.

Can anyone give us the address of one or more persons in England, Ire-

land or Scotland? An interested correspondent from there would be in a position to aid in tracing early history or achievements. There is an old tune entitled "Kathbun," to be found in any hymn book, which must have been composed and sung many years ago.

—We acknowledge receipt of subscription from each of the following, for which please accept thanks: Clarence L. Rathbun, De Witt, Neb.; Mrs. R. M. Tunks, Warsaw, N. Y.; Morris W. Rathbun, East Hadden, Conn.; Mrs. George E. Gerts, Oak Park, Ill.; Mrs. Mortimer Rathbone, Chicago; L. K. Rathbun, Mrs. Caroline A. Rathbun, Mrs. Helen R. Gage, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Otis L. Benton, Oberlin, Kan.; Mrs. Omer Leyns, Utica, N. Y.; I. F. Rathbone, Red Oak, Iowa; C. M. Rathbun, Fredonia, N. Y.; E. O. Doak, Geo. Doak, O. C. Rathbone, W. E. Rathbone, Steamboat Rock, Ia.; Mrs. F. S. Gibbs Greenville, Mich.; L. G. Rathbun, Elmira, N. Y.; John V. Rathbone, Parksburg, W. Va.; C. D. Rathbone, Belpre, Ohio; Mrs. J. H. Allen, Glen Elder, Kan.; O. Y. Rathbun, Whitewright, Texas; Miss Eunice Rathbone Goddard, New London, Conn.; Eliza A. Rathbun, Norwich, Conn.; Mrs. Henry Jackson, Denver, Colo.; Wm. F. Rathbone, Albany, N. Y.; Mrs. M. S. Gillidett, Chas. W. Gillidett, Bethany Mo.; Milton Rathbun, \$2, St. Louis, Mo.; J. P. Johnson, Hannibal, Mo. Wm. C. Rathbun, Coon View, Rhode Island.