

The Rathbone



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Obituary

History

In 1688
purchased B

THE RATHBONE FAMILY HISTORIAN.

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EARLY HISTORY.

"Pequot" in the Narragansett Weekly August 1860.

It is well known that there are many families on the main land in various states, of the Union, that trace their descent from early settlers of this Island (Block Island.) Among these are the wide extended names of Rathbone, Rose, Dodge, Sands, Ray, Littlefield, Dunn etc. It is my purpose in this and succeeding papers, to say something of one of the above named families, viz. the Rathbones or Rathbuns, (written both ways, sometimes by children of the same father.) tracing it from an early date down the current of time, to a period within the reach of those who desire to learn their pedigree, but lack the patience necessary to obtain it themselves. I do so with the more pleasure since your paper occasionally welcomes a column concerning some of our old Narragansett, and Pequot tribes of Anglican origin, and since quite full particulars of this pedigree have fallen in my way. You must allow me a little margin for digression, as I proceed. I disclaim any motive connected with the late announcement of "the great Rathbun estate of forty millions, recently advertised by the bank of England. awaiting the call of American heirs, who were supposed to have settled on Block Island, in America, or in parts thereto adjacent." What respectable family has not been chased

by such a Jack-with-a-lantern, or found some susceptible member ready to chase it in turn? But I am reminded that there are believers in the existence of the aforesaid estate. I trust the belief will never lead to any practical harm from the sudden influx of untold wealth. I shall spell the name as I find it in different branches of the family. Says a correspondent who has much information on this subject; "the Rathbone family are no doubt of Saxon origin, and have been a distinct family in the Kingdom of Great Britain, for more than five hundred years. A wealthy branch of this family has resided in the city of Liverpool for more than three hundred years. Other branches have settled in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, and other parts of England.

John Rathbone, one of the younger sons of the Liverpool family, emigrated from that city to America in 1620. He came over in the Speedwell, the associate vessel with the Mayflower, which latter vessel landed forty-one persons, of the Pilgrim Fathers on Plymouth Rock."

This John Rathbone removed to the Island of Rhode Island, and had at least one son John (2) who married a Dodge, and also settled on the same Island. In 1661 his name appears on the Records of Lands on Block Island as

one of the sixteen original settlers of the Island, he being assigned lots four and ten, in the division. He had several sons and perhaps daughters. The names of the sons, so far as ascertained were Samuel, Jonathan, John, Joshua, Nathaniel, Benjamin and Thomas.

Samuel settled on the Island. Jonathan settled in Colchester, colony of Connecticut, where his descendants still reside.

Joshua settled in Stonington, colony of Connecticut.

One of the others settled in Exeter, colony of Rhode Island.

Joshua, who was born Feb. 11, 1696, married Mary Wightman, daughter of Rev. Valentine Wightman, of Groton, Feb. 16, 1705, and had twelve children of whom Rev. John Rathbun was the fourth.

Rev. John Rathbun had thirteen children, of whom the eldest, John Rathbone, married Eunice Wells, daughter of Thomas Wells of Hopkinton. Moses and Samuel removed to Buffalo, where Samuel alone of the thirteen still survives, in his eighty fifth year, and yet writes a better business hand than one half of our merchant's clerks.

Rev. Valentine W. Rathbun, for some time minister at Stonington Borough, was another son of Rev. John Rathbun.

To return to the Block Island settler, John Rathbun (2). His eldest son Samuel (1) already named is supposed to be the only one of his sons that per-

manently located on Block Island, and inhabited the homestead estate.

It is to his line I now address myself presenting first the source whence I have derived most of my information. This is contained in an old family Bible belonging to Samuel Rathbun (1) son of John Rathbun (2). This precious heirloom now one hundred and thirty five years old, bears the imprint of Oxford, England, A. D. 1725, and contains also the Psalter and the Collect of the Church of England and was purchased in the old country, tradition says expressly for Samuel Rathbun (1).

In it he recorded the birth of himself and wife, their marriage, the date of the birth of all of his children, and so has each generation following in the line of the owner of the bible, and it is to this day the book of records of all such genealogical memoranda. The first owner of this Bible, Samuel Rathbun (1) wrote in it with his own hand as follows:

"I, Samuel Rathbun, at my death, do leave this Bible to my son, Samuel Rathbun, and at his death to his son, Walter Rathbun. I have written this with my own hand, September ye 4th day, A. D. 1743—Samuel Rathbun."

The above Walter Rathbun, the inheritor of the Bible, commonly known as "Master Walter," or "Walter the scribe," dying, bequeathed this Bible to his daughter, Catherine (Rathbun) Mott, and to his grand-son after her, Walter Rathbun Mott, the present owner. Daniel Mott, Esq., the husband

of Catherine, is yet living with his son, Abraham Rathbun Mott, and is in his eighty-ninth year, retaining possession of the Bible in right of his deceased wife. This precious keepsake, upon being rebound many years since, received additional blank leaves for further genealogical records and, as a whole, is now in a better state of preservation than any book of equal age I recollect to have seen, and am happy to say that this "The old-fashioned Bible, the dear, blessed Bible, the family Bible, that lay on the stand," is still kept with the same pious care that the fathers, for so many generations, bestowed upon it. But it is now no longer, as of yore, "laid on the stand," but more securely inshrined, being permitted to see the light only to satisfy the curiosity of a visitor, or to receive the memorials of births, marriages or deaths in the family. So much for the source of my information.

Samuel Rathbun [1] was born August 3, 1672, and died Jan., 22, 1757. He was married to his wife, Patience, Nov., 3, 1692, and she died August 3, 1747, aged 77 years. Their children were:

First, Capt. Thomas, born May 3, 1695, died, 1733; second, Patience, born August 21, 1697; third, Mary, born Sept., 11, 1700; fourth, Wait, born Dec., 30, 1702; fifth, Samuel [2], born April 16, 1705; sixth, James, born April 10, 1707; seventh, Abraham, born Nov., 23, 1709; eighth, Rebecca, born Jan., 9, 1713; of these eight children, Samuel (2) settled on the Island and inherited the home-

stead.

Samuel Rathbun [2], fifth child of Samuel Rathbun [1] and Patience Rathbun, married Elizabeth Dodge, March 15, 1732 and died Jan., 24, 1780. Elizabeth, his wife, died August 8, 1793, in the seventy-ninth year of her age. The children of Samuel [2] and Elizabeth [Dodge] Rathbun were:

First, Walter, ["Master Walter"], born June 16, 1734; second, Samuel [3], born, July 10, 1736; third, Elijah, born, May 28, 1740, settled in Groton, Conn.; fourth, Betty, born, Dec., 2, 1742. The oldest son, Walter, was for sixty years town clerk of Newshancham and died Jan., 1818. He married Hannah Rose March 4, 1756, and his wife died March 10, 1807, in the seventy-ninth year of her age. The children of Walter and Hannah [Rose] Rathbun were:

First, Abraham, born Dec., 22, 1757, died young; second, Lydia, born Nov., 29, 1758, died 1780; third, Tamar, born Feb., 15, 1761, died 1809; fourth, Hannah, born Dec., 22, 1764, died, 1813; fifth, Ezra, died young; sixth and seventh, James and Catherine, twins, born May 13, 1768. Of these Hannah, James and Catherine had children.

Hannah married Archibald Millikin and was the grand-mother of the present accomplished hostess of the Adrian House, Mrs. Nicholas Ball.

James, the sixth child of Walter and Hannah (Rose) married Waity Littlefield, and was the father of the present Walter Rathbun and Mrs. Giles P. Dunn.

Capt. Thomas Rathbone, (Packet Master) is a grandson of James, his branch of the family adopt the English spelling—Rathbone.

Catherine, the youngest daughter of Walter and Hannah (Rose) married Daniel Mott, Esq., (he is yet living in his 89th year) and is the custodian of the Bible. His wife, Catherine, died in 1824, aged 56 years.

The children of Daniel Mott and Catherine, (Rathbun) his wife, are;

First, Waity Rathbun married Lodwick Mott.

Second, Walter Rathbun (the inheritor of the Bible.)

Third, Abraham Rathbun.

Waity died leaving one daughter.

Rathbun and Abraham Mott, have each several children. The lands which they own are some of the eligible for location and fertility on the Island, and are the same that the first Rathbun settled and occupied. I walked over the sight of their ancient family dwelling, which disappeared a century ago. There is the hollow where the cellar once was in which the grass now grows. Here in the pleasant valley below is the spring of living water, which two centuries have not yet diminished.

I felt that I was treading on interesting ground, and memory was for the time busy with the past.

In my next, I will speak of the Rathbuns, of Groton, the descendants of Elijah Rathbun, the third son of Samuel, (2) and Elizabeth (Dodge) Rathbun.

REV. JOHN RATHBONE.

Among the numerous members of the Rathbone family, living and otherwise, the name of Rev. John Rathbone deserves honorable mention. He was born at, or near, Stonington, Conn., June 26, 1729, and died August 2, 1826, in the ninety eighth year of his age.

He was a clergyman of the Baptist faith, and preached in his pulpit for the last time, a few weeks prior to his death. Being almost totally blind by reason of his great age, it is said that at this service he repeated a whole chapter of the Bible from memory. The writer has an indistinct remembrance of seeing him at his father's home in New York, smoking his pipe, after supper and previous to family prayer. He was a man of fine presence, with a face, judging from a silhouette in possession of the family, not unlike that of Washington. He married Content Brown, of Rye, N. Y., January 8, 1757, and left many descendants.

CAPTAIN RATHBONE.

The writer also remembers hearing more than fifty years ago, of the exploits of Capt. Rathbone, one of the family, and an officer in the United States Navy.

He probably was the same person as the "Capt. Rathburne" mentioned in Cooper's Naval History, as being "the half dozen naval captains who most distinguished themselves during the war of the Revolution." Cooper also relates his heroic and most audacious

attack on one of the forts held by the British on the New England coast. Landing a small force (not exceeding fifty men, if I remember correctly) he captured the fort at night, held it for two days, then finding that the townspeople had discovered the small number of his force, he abandoned the place after spiking the guns. S.

CHARLES D. RATHBONE.

I was born at Belpre, Washington county, Ohio, July 6, 1840, and in that same year, our family moved to Marietta Ohio, where we lived until 1845, when we returned to Belpre, and to a farm life, until 1856. During these years in Belpre, I attended the common and select schools of the neighborhood. In 1856-7, I was in Tennessee; one year of that time at Hanner High school, near McMinnville. In the summer of 1858, I studied bookkeeping in Pittsburg, Penn. From May, 1859, I served an apprenticeship of two years in the machine shops of H. & F. Blandy, at Zanesville, Ohio.

In May 1861, I enlisted in the volunteer service of the United States, for three years and was mustered with Co. B. 24th, Regiment, Ohio Infantry, at Camp Jackson, Columbus, Ohio. I was present with the Regiment on Cheat Mountain in September, and at Green Briar, Va., October 3, 1861; was in the army of the Ohio under Gen. D. C. Buell at Pittsburg Landing, April 7, 1862, at the siege of Corinth in May; Perryville, Ky., October 8th; in the army of the

Cumberland under Gen. W. S. Rosencrans, at Stones River, in December, 1862 and January, 1863; Tullahoma Campaign, Chicamauga September 19,-20, 1863, siege of Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge and Ringold. Was 1st, Serg't. from January 31, 1862. I received injuries for which I am pensioned. I am P. P. C. Post 459, Dept. of Ohio G. A. R. After returning from the service I worked several months at my trade, machinist. Then clerked for about fifteen months in the store for Lasater & Rathbone at Tullahoma, Tenn. October 3, 1865, I married Miss Maria L. Ames. In 1866-7-8, I worked at my trade in Cincinnati, Ohio. The depression following war-times caused me to leave Cincinnati and I returned to this place where I worked about six months for an insurance company; following that, for the Maris Box & Wheel Co., Marietta, Ohio, as machinist for a year and a half. From 1870 to 1883 I was with Porter, Rathbone & Hale, pump manufactuerrs, Belpre, Ohio. Since then I have worked at my trade operating a repair shop here. During seven years and more past I have held the office of Justice of the Peace. My wife died in 1882, leaving me three daughters, the youngest being at home, one in Chicago, the other in Washington, D. C. My mother is living with me at the present time.

SIDNEY S. RATHBUN.

Son of Philander Rathbun, was born April 24, 1800, and married Eva A.

Shaffer, June 22, 1822. Their family consisted of eight daughters and one son. Julia A., Maria L., Britania C., Catharine J., Elmira, Cynthia, Clara, George D., and Helen A. He enlisted Oct., 3, 1861, in the 24th New York Battery, and was discharged in 1862 for physical inability. He died May 3, 1883, in Mitchell, Dakota, aged eighty-three years.

ELIZA STEVENS RATHBUN.

OSWEGO (N. Y.) PALLADIUM.

DIED—In Kane, Pa., February 14, 1891, Eliza Stevens Rathbun in the 67th year of her age.

The above announcement which was made in The Palladium of Saturday last was received with regret by many in Oswego, where Mrs. Rathbun and her family were well known and highly respected. She was the widow of Wm. A. Rathbun, one of Oswego's reliable business men, who died in this city in 1878. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Rathbun lived for many years with her daughter, Mrs. Geo. H. Hees, in Oswego. On the removal of the latter to Toronto, Ont., Mrs. Rathbun accompanied the Hees family. For the past three years she had been with her brother, John Stevens, formerly clerk of Oswego county, now of Greeley, Colo., and had recently gone to her son, Julian Humphrey Rathbun in Kane, Penn., where she died as above noticed.

She had been in failing health for over a year, but her illness gave her and her relatives no serious apprehension until about two months since, when it be-

came apparent that she would never be well again. The tender care and kindly ministrations of her children, while they soothed her last days, could not avert the relentless stroke, and she passed peacefully away, surrounded by loving and sorrowful hearts. Mrs. Rathbun was born in Jefferson county N. Y., in 1825. In 1844 she married William A. Rathbun in Sandy Creek, Oswego county, and soon afterward came to Oswego with her husband, where they remained until the death of the latter.

Mrs Rathbun had traits of character which made her singularly attractive. She was bright, intelligent, cheerful and loving. None came within the circle of her acquaintance without feeling the influence of those traits. She believed that love is the greatest power in the world, and she attested this faith by her life work. In her, the poor, the afflicted and the depraved had always a warm, sympathizing friend and a quick helper. To lift the fallen was to her the best work of love, and she never failed to do what she could—never condemning, but always encouraging and cheering, not only those who were still "pulling hard against the stream," but those who had given up the struggle in despair. Those who knew Mrs. Rathbun best will recognize the truth of this characterization.

The HISTORIAN will give you the family news and keep you posted upon the current events. Take it.

BLOCK ISLAND, R. I.

August 7, 1660, the first purchasers of Block Island met at the house of Dr. John Alcock in Boston, Mass., to make arrangements regarding their purchase. Their names were Richard Billings, Samuel Deering, Nathaniel Wingley, Tormot Rose, Edward Vorse, John Rathbone, Thomas Faxon, Richard Ellis, Felix Wharton, John Alcock, Peter George and Simon Ray. In September of 1660 they met again, this time at the house of Felix Wharton, in Boston, and a Mr. Noyes of Sudbury, Mass., acting as surveyor, accompanied by Mr. Faxon, acting as a committee of the proprietors, were sent here. They divided the island into three parts, northern, western and southeastern. These, it appears, were again divided, the northern into seventeen lots, the western into nine lots and the southeastern into seven lots. Some of the owners had one lot and some two; variations in the quality of the soil suggesting different sized allotments. In April 1661, two vessels,—a bark commanded by William Rose, and a shallop by William Edwards—the former from Braintree, and the latter from Taunton, arrived at the Island to commence settlement. William Rose above mentioned, stayed on the island but a short time and his name disappears from the records, but Thomas, otherwise called Tormot, who is supposed to have been a son of William, remained on the island and died in 1684. It is quite probable that some of the first pur-

chasers did not come here at all, as many of the names are only mentioned in the purchase of the island. James Sands was among the prominent ones. He was born in Reeding, England. He represented the town in the assembly several years. He built a stone house here—a sort of fort.—Clipping.

ROBERT BOLIVAR RATHBUN.

Son of James Rathbun, was born June 2, 1825, at Rhinebeck, Dutchess county, N. Y.

Removed from Castile, N. Y., April 14, 1856, settled in Delevan, Walworth county, Wis., and married Augusta D. Martindale, Sept., 9, 1857, at Geneva, Wis. Then went from there to Sparta, Wis., Feb., 1861. He enlisted in the army August 6, 1862, and served until June 1865, in Co. D. 25th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers.

From Sparta, he removed to Aberdeen, South Dakota, April, 1883, thence to Redwood Falls, Minnesota, October 1891, and is now permanently settled on a beautiful farm on the Minnesota river.

Their children were William, James, Charles, Fred Austin, Kate Augusta, Edwin Hamilton, and Robert Martindale. Charles died August 4, 1866. There have been no marriages in the family.

A QUIET HOME WEDDING.

The marriage of Mr. Nelson T. Tunnecliff of Omaha, Nebraska, and Miss Celia M. VanHorne, daughter of

Mr. E. A. VanHorne, took place at two o'clock this afternoon, at Mr. VanHorne's country home, just west of the city. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. F. H. Beck, of the M. E. church and was witnessed by friends of the bride in this city. The mantel in the parlor was tastefully banked with flowers by Mrs. C. Bechstedt. The wedding presents were many and extremely beautiful. After the ceremony a lunch was served. Mr. and Mrs. Tunnecliff leave at seven o'clock tonight for Omaha, which will be their future home.

The groom is a prosperous lawyer and the bride is an accomplished young lady whose many friends in this city extend their best wishes for the future. Those present from abroad were Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Wood of Utica.

Miss VanHorne's mother is of the Rathbun family. Mr. Tunnecliff is of the Otsegobo, N. Y. Rathbuns, who are very numerous there. Mr. and Mrs. Tunnecliff will be at home 520 South 30th Street, Omaha, Neb., after July 15th.

HELEN R. CARRIER.

INTERESTING LETTERS.

7 WIMPOLE STREET CAVENDISH

SQUARE. W. LONDON.

MY DEAR SIR:—As I am the only man in London who spells his name "Rathbun," I naturally do not know many of that name, but there are a great many Rathbones in Liverpool, several of that name ranking very high among the names of her merchant princes. I

have written to Wm. Rathbone, Esq. M. P. to find out if there is any history of the family extant and will advise you when I hear from him.

My father, Levant Rathbun, whose father was a physician in Oneida county N. Y., came to what is now the town of Busti, Ohant, county, N. Y., at the age of sixteen, bringing with him his elder brother, Alden Rathbun, now of Camden, N. Y.

He settled on some land of the Holland purchase, clearing it and farming during the summers, and teaching school in the winters.

At the age of 26 he was converted to religion and became a Baptist preacher.

He was twice married; his second wife Sarah Ann, who survives him, is now living in Northeast, Penn. at the age of seventy-eight. He died in 1869 at the age of sixty-six. There were, as the result of his two marriages, ten children. Those now living being: Dorlisca, widow of A. J. Manley, of Panama N. Y., Byron, one of the leading dentists of western N. Y., who is located at Dunkirk, N. Y., Milton who I see is a subscriber to The HISTORIAN, at St. Louis Mo., Wilbur F., a mining engineer at Rocky Bar, Idaho, Laura, the wife of Charles A. Davis, a leading merchant of Panama, N. Y., and your humble servant, who ten years ago concluded to try his fortunes in the Metropolis of the world and has met with as much success as he deserves, if not more. I cannot imagine that anything I could say about myself could

by any possible means interest your readers, but I might say, I am practicing dental surgery in my own house in one of the leading streets in the "West-end," in fact in a street where there are seven or eight more doctors' and dentists' plates up, than there are houses—the extremely high rentals causing young professional men to let off a consulting room to some brother medica. While a professional man in London has comparatively little time to himself, I would be more than pleased to see any one of the name of Rathbone who might be traveling abroad, and it is more than possible that ten years experience here might be able to be of use in putting them in the right way to see London. Wishing your paper every success, I am, Faithfully,

CHARLES RATHBUN.

—*—

NORWICH, CONN.

DEAR HISTORIAN:—My grandfather, Thomas, was the youngest of the six sons of John Rathbun and Ann Dodge, who lived and died on Block Island. After their parents' death, they, with their two sisters, came over to the mainland.

Jonathan settled at Colchester, Conn., Joshua, at Stonington, Conn., and the other four brothers and their sisters settled at Escoheag, R. I., in Exeter.

Thomas was under twenty-one years of age and lived with his brother for some time. He married Charity Perkins and settled on the west side of Escoheag Hill. They had eight children

of whom my father was the youngest. The oldest son died in the Revolutionary war. The youngest, Nathan, served as Coast Defender. Thomas was a successful farmer, and gave to three of his sons a farm. I know very little of my ancestors as my grandfather died nearly forty years before I was born; my uncles and aunts were all gone.

My father, Nathan Rathbun, was born in 1753 and married first, Robie Hopkins of Foster, R. I., in the 22nd year of his age, she being nineteen. A daughter, Robie, was born to them July 12, 1776. She married young and died when about twenty-two, leaving a daughter, Polly Willcox, who was born in 1794. He afterward married his second wife, my mother, and they had six children. I was the fifth child; born in 1819 at Escoheag. My father was quite a successful man, and in middle life took a fancy to study medicine and became a successful physician. He talked strongly of going to New York state which was then called "going west," but his oldest son induced him to remain at Escoheag. He died in 1841, and was buried on one of his farms among his kindred. He served the town of Exeter as Justice of the Peace for many years.

In the spring of 1837 my eldest brother, Nathan, living at New London and working as a house-joiner, I went there and learned the trade of Mr. Melville Chester, who afterwards went to Kansas City and engaged in the lumber business

where he died. In the spring of 1840, I came to Norwich and in the fall was one of the thirty-seven persons who organized a church known as the Central Baptist Church. It now has a membership of over 500, and we are building a new house of worship to cost seventy thousand dollars, in which I am building the stairs.

In 1843 I married Phebe A. Coburn. She died in 1845 leaving a daughter six days old. In 1846 I married Martha D. Coburn. She had two daughters, and died in 1856. She was the wife that the tune "Rathbun" was named for. My three children died young. In 1857 I married Eliza A. Thompson. She is a descendant of Joshua Rathbone and Mary Wightman.

I built a house in the winter of 1842-3, and in 1868 sold it and built my present residence, which cost between nine and ten thousand dollars.

I am a Republican, but take no active part in political affairs.

Yours Truly,
B. S. RATHBUN.

July 1, 1892.

—*—

HADLYME, Conn.

DEAR HISTORIAN:—My husband was a descendant of Thomas Rathbone born at Joshuatown., Conn., town of Lyme. His parents came from Long Island, here. They had four children, namely: Vesta, married J. Gordin; Elisa, married David Beckwith; Huldah, married Urson Gates; Norris R., married — Swan. My husband, Edwin Gates, is a son of Huldah Gates. He had two brothers and one sister: Norris Rathbone, Emory W., and Maria L. Gates.

Truly Yours,
MRS. F. EDWIN GATES.

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

Conducted by Miss ANTOINETTE RATHBONE, Steamboat Rock, Iowa, to whom all communications should be addressed.

LOOKING INTO THE SKY.

BY EUNICE RATHBONE GODDARD.

AGE NINE YEARS.

One day a bird was singing
In the tree-tops high;
I stood in the grass below her,
Looking into the sky.

I said "Oh, birdie tell me
The words of your song;
Why do you have no trouble
As you go singing along."

Then said the little birdie,
"Three little birdies have I,
And that is why I am singing
Up in the tree-tops high."

I said, "Be happy birdie,
No little children have I;
If I had, I'd not be looking
Up into the sky."

—o—o—

Dear Cousins:—As I wish to write a letter, I will first tell you who I am. My name is Viola Jerusha Wright, daughter of Albert Rathbun Wright, and his mother was Jerusha Rathbun Wright, sister of Margaret Royce, whose letters you will see in the May number of the HISTORIAN. I am ten years old. I have one brother six years old. We both go to school. We were all born in Ogle county, Ill. We are now living in the city of Rockford, Ill. June the 13th, 1892, we had the pleasure of attending a concert given by the graduating class in music; one of the graduates being our mutual cousin, Alta May Cooley, daughter of Elijah Rathbun Cooley, of Ogle county, Ill. I would like to tell you how beautiful

and stately Alta looked and what a lovely dress she wore, but the editor will be cross if I take up so much room. I am taking lessons on the violin and am going to to Rochelle to visit my cousins there. I have written quite a long letter and sometime will write again.

Your Cousin,

VIOLA J. WRIGHT.

—o—o—

Dear Cousins.—I like to read the HISTORIAN, especially the children's letters. I am nine years old and my name is William Boynton Rathbun. I have a brother Henry, two years younger than I, and we were both born in Ohio on a farm, just across the street from the farm where Gen. Garfield was born. My papa has a store and Post office here, and we boys enjoy riding to Lincoln on the electric cars. The other day when we visited Lincoln Park a small monkey chased Henry around a tree several times. Suppose we tell each other some of the things we have seen and done during the summer vacation. If you think best I will try some other time.

WILLIAM BOYNTON RATHBUN.

—o—o—

—It seems a singular coincidence that at the election of officers in June, the Knights of Pythias should elect three brothers to the same office in in three different lodges, in three different states. However, F. P. Rathbone, Oberlin Lodge No. 42, Oberlin Kan., S. H. Rathbone, Evergreen Lodge No. 56, Eldora, Iowa, G. G. Rathbone, Godiva, Lodge No. 8, Eureka, Utah, were each elected to the office of Master at Arms, in their respective Lodges.

PERSONALS.

—E. H. Rathbone, Eureka, Utah, represented his Lodge in the Grand Session held at Salt Lake City, June 21st, last.

—The following are staying at the Rathbun Palace, Oswego, N. Y. H. J. Baach and wife, Mrs. Arthur Rathbun Perry and son of New York city.—Oswego Daily Times.

—Mrs. Isaac Rathburn and daughter, Clara, of Indianola, Neb., are the guests of H. M. Lawson and wife. Mrs. Rathburn is Mr. Lawson's sister.—From Hannibal Mo.

—J. Q. Rathbone has purchased a quarter section of land in Montgomery county Iowa, five miles north of Red Oak, the county seat, where he will locate in December next.

—C. F. Rathbone, Eureka, Utah, made history for himself during the past month by being elected Grand Instructor, K. of P. of Utah, P. C. of his own Lodge, and making the Fourth of July oration at Eureka.

—Glen Rathbone arrived in Oberlin Wednesday, from Eureka, Utah, for a short visit with his brother, F. P., and other friends. Glen has a whole host of friends in Oberlin that were glad to see him.—Oberlin (Kan.,) Opinion.

—William Rathbone was elected member of Parliament, without opposition, July 4th, from Carnarvanshire North (Arvon) division England.

—Upon the "honor list" of Yale graduates for the past year, is that of H. R. Rathbone, Albany, N. Y.

—G. W. Harlan has bought the Enterprise Restaurant at Glen Elder, Kan., and starts out with good prospects.

—Mrs. Narcissa Rathbone Taylor, of Glen Elder, Kan., has recently sold her stock of millinery and retired to private life.

—W. E. Rathbone, Steamboat Rock, Iowa, was recently chosen central committeeman of his precinct, by the republicans.

—Mrs. Narcissa Rathbun Stevens and husband, of Sparta, Wis., will spend the summer with their children in New York State.

—Mrs. Mary A. Jackson, of Denver, deserves special mention for the active interest she has shown in aid of the "good work."

—J. H. Allen is furnishing the stone for several buildings in Glen Elder, Kansas, among which is a large business block.

—Mrs. Electa Rathbone Allen, of Glen Elder, Kan., has just recovered from a severe attack of rheumatism. She suggests September or the first of October, as a good time for the Re-union.

—The remains of Rowland I. Rathbun, have recently been removed from Denver, Colo., to Auburn, N. Y., where they were placed in the family lot in

Fort Hill cemetery. His obituary notice appeared in the March issue of the HISTORIAN.

—E. G. Rathbun, Ellis, Neb., is not only a temperance worker, but favors woman's suffrage as well—another example of the family characteristic of respect, and the exalted position in which women are held.

—Helen A. Rathbun Matteson, of Mitchell, South Dakota, is spending the summer with friends at Helena, Mont., and reports the view of the snow-capped Rocky Mountains as being perfectly grand—particularly so to a former New Yorker.

—G. A. Rathbun, Omaha, is General Manager of the state agents of Nebraska, for the Fidelity Mutual Life Association, of Philadelphia. He is a young gentleman of fine personal appearance, energy and business. The family will be proud of him some day.

—Geo. R. Rathbun is proprietor of Rathbun's Omaha Business College, where he can be found busy with his pen, which, guided by his skilful hand, has left some beautiful specimens in that art, to fill with wonder those who aspire to make their mark in the counting house. He also directs the movement of crowned heads with great success upon his favorite battle-field the chess board.

—Miss Helen R. Carrier, who conducted, so successfully, the recent Kir-mess at Rome, sails from New York

on March the first for San Francisco, going by way of the Isthmus of Panama. Miss Carrier has arranged for the conducting of a grand Kirmess in San Francisco, Portland, Oregon and Los Angeles California, during the months of April and May. Besides Miss Carrier there are but two persons engaged in the business in this country, a gentleman in New York, and Miss Eager so well and favorably known in this city—
Clipping.

—Mortimer Rathbone is a very successful salesman in a dry goods store at Red Oak, Iowa.

—Chester Rathbone is farming near Red Oak, Iowa. He is a young man of push and energy.

—Our Chicago Associate spent the Fourth with his parents on the farm near Grand Rapids, Mich.

—Mrs. F. P. Rathbone was chosen M. of R. and C. by the members of Cornelian Temple at Oberlin, Kan., the first of this month, on account of her eminent qualifications as a book-keeper.

—Mr. and Mrs. J. Q. Rathbone, with their daughter, Miss Antoinette, of Steamboat Rock, Iowa, G. G. Rathbone, of Eureka, Utah, and F. P. Rathbone, of Oberlin, Kan., met at the pleasant home of I. F. Rathbone, in Red Oak, Iowa, early this month, where they enjoyed a visit together after several years of separation. There were present fifteen persons, all closely related, being brothers, sisters and cousins.

—Mrs. H. B. Rathbun and family

have been visiting in Belleville.... Miss Bell, Miss Wallbridge and Miss Kathleen Bell are visiting at Mr. H. B. Rathbun's..... Mr. E. W. Rathbun has kindly placed the steamer Ella Ross at the disposal of the West End Mission for an excursion at one o'clock tomorrow afternoon.... A field of wheat on the Wilson hill section of the Rathbun Company's farm attracts the admiration of all passers by. It can not be surpassed in this district.... Mrs. F. S. Rathbun and Misses Jessie and Jeanette Rathbun left on Monday for Quebec City where they intend visiting friends for some weeks. Miss Rathbun accompanied them as far as Montreal.—Deseronto Tribune.

—CAPE VINCENT, July 10.—A disastrous fire occurred this afternoon about five o'clock while most of the people were attending a funeral at St. John's cemetery. The Rathbun House, one of the finest and largest summer hotels on the river, was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was given and the fire department responded promptly. The fire originated in the kitchen and spread rapidly. The loss on the building and furniture will reach \$18,000, covered partially by insurance. A good share of the furniture was saved. The hotel was owned by E. D. Fox, of New York and was let to George Carpenter. The hotel was well filled with summer guests at the time, many of whom lost most of their property. The loss of Landlord Carpenter will be considerable.—Syracuse Standard.

THE RATHBONE FAMILY HISTORIAN.

F. P. RATHBONE, Editor.

Associates:

Geo. A. Rathbun,
1800 Michigan, Av., Chicago.

Miss Antionette Rathbone,
Steamboat Rock, Iowa.

Mrs. Myra Rathbun Brownell,
Silver Springs, N. Y.

Others wanted!

Entered at the postoffice at Oberlin,
Kansas, as "second-class" matter.

IN AN EDITORIAL WAY.

The Cleveland Leader of July 10th gives a full account of how Hon. E. G. Rathbone and eleven other friends of President Harrison, known as the "twelve apostles," carried the Harrison campaign to a successful terminus and secured his nomination. There seems to be no doubt about Mr. Rathbone being the backbone of the whole committee, and its work. We can only give a very little of the letter, so choose that part relating to his personality.

ONE OF HARRISON'S CAPTAINS.

"I went to the Postoffice Department this afternoon, a white stone building with columns all about it, corner of Seventeenth and F. streets, and up two flights to see Major E. G. Rathbone, fourth assistant under Wanamaker. The Major is a tall man, wears eye-glasses, has a short, blonde mustache, a strong, intelligent face, and an athletic physique. He is not impulsive, but cordial in his greetings, although inclined to let other people do the talking. If he were a picket and you hadn't the countersign he would shoot you if you loitered on the line too long. His home is in Hamilton, near Cincinnati, and ex-Governor Campbell is his wife's

cousin. He has been in politics since 1876—active politics—also the Ohio State Senate; has worked with Quay, Dudley, and all the rest; has confounded Democrats who went to Cincinnati from New York and Kentucky to vote for Hancock and dipped into Indiana four years ago at the personal request of the President. He was one of the Harrison leaders who led, and I knew he could talk learnedly, authoritatively and entertainingly if he would. I had found him simple, direct, and truthful at the convention. All of the Harrison men were. They put out figures which were reliable and spread no braggadocio or bluster.

"Will you give me the history of the Harrison campaign at Minneapolis?" I asked the Major. "I want it from the beginning until the nomination was made.

"I can, certainly," said he. "There is nothing to conceal. We worked secretly when we worked, but now that the President has been nominated, they can know precisely what we did, if the world is at all interested."

I assured him that it was. He then proceeded with his story."

The letter is simply an interview with Mr. Rathbone and intensely interesting to politicians, showing shrewdness yet perfect honesty and freedom from knavery that often characterizes political schemes. The future for the Major will be one that his friends and family may look to with pride, not alone on account of his success but for his worth.

We have received six numbers of a magazine called "THE RATHBONE FAMILY HISTORIAN," published and edited by F. P. Rathbone at Oberlin, Kansas. The work is a laudable one, having for

one of its objects, the gathering together of "biographies, family history, tradition, news, etc." The numbers now before us are very interesting, containing letters from members of the family residing in many States of the Union. These letters are in most cases devoted to family history, which makes the work valuable as well as interesting to all of the Rathbone descendants. The second number contains a short history of Justus H. Rathbone, "Founder of Knights of Pythias;" early history, by J. Q. Rathbone; testimony of Henry H. Rathbone, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General Volunteers, at the trial of John H. Surrat, indicted for the murder of Abraham Lincoln. The fourth number contains a fine likeness of John T. Rathbun, of Elmira, one of its most prominent citizens, who when President Lincoln called for 75,000 troops, with one other gentleman, put in a fully equipped regiment of one thousand men. In the fifth number will be found an account of the death of Oscar J. Rathbun, one of the great woolen and cotton manufacturers in Rhode Island.—Oswego Daily Palladium.

Once more we would like to urge every reader of the HISTORIAN to send their genealogical history to Mr. John C. Cooley, Oswego N. Y. He has been exerting great efforts for nearly fifteen years, upon this work, spending much time and money, and is very anxious to get some missing accounts before clos-

ing it. Remember that if your name and family should be omitted from the volume, it will be because he was unable to secure it, as he has done all in his power to have the chain complete.

We are certain that should any of the family be in need of a dentist's aid while in London, they would feel called upon to find Dr. Charles Rathbun, of 7 Wimpole St., Cavendish Square. He has had several years experience in that city, and must be proficient in the calling to hold the confidence of his many patrons.

A copy of the HISTORIAN has been requested by the Kansas State Historical Society of Topeka, to be kept on file and become the property of the State. The request has been granted.

Mr. Gideon Rathbone furnishes a late photo to be used in preparing a plate for a sketch to begin in the August number.

Miss Sara Dwight Rathbone has our thanks for a superb photograph of her illustrious father, Justus H. Rathbone. Its value is increased, coming as it does, direct from his daughter.

We are debtor to Mr. B. S. Rathbun, for a late photograph that displays such a genial smile that it would brighten a rainy day.

The HISTORIAN wants anything and everything that is in any sense a part

of the history of the family or any member of it. No difference how trivial it may seem now, the time may come when just that little incident, date, story, narrative, obituary, speech wedding notice or any other fact, may prove the "missing link" to a chain of facts that will be incomplete without it. What you send may not be published at once, but every letter or clipping will be preserved and used some time in its proper connection.

In brief, everything that, by the most liberal construction, can illustrate the history of the family, its early settlement, its progress, or present condition. All will be of interest to succeeding generations. Contributions will be credited to the donors, and will be carefully preserved for the use and benefit of the family for all time.

There is a "Rathbun settlement" in Cheyenne county Kansas, noted for the thrift and enterprise which usually accompanies the name. Thus far we have not been able to get the address of any of them, but have lately found a person who promised to get it. It is understood that they came to this state from Missouri.

Preserve your January number; it will be highly prized by the end of the year, in fact many are now wanting to know where they can secure it to complete their volume.

Through the courtesy of Mr. B. S.

Rathbun, we have a short history of Block Island which is very interesting, but it contains no reference to any of the family.

Cornelius T. Rathbone, of Bellevue, Idaho, has been seriously afflicted since March, with a tumor in the stomach. As he is quite advanced in life, his friends have grave fears on account of it.

Mrs. Margaret R. Royce, of Rochelle, Ill., is visiting her son David and other relatives near Oberlin, Kan.

Amos Rathbun (or bone; in dispute) had ten children viz: Mrs. Mary Rathbun Howe, Nathan Rathbun, Charles Rathbun, Mrs. Electa Rathbun Cooley, Mrs. Parmelia Rathbun, Williams Rathbun, Alfred D. Rathbone, Amos Rathbone, Jacob Rathbun, Mrs. Sarah Rathbone Benedict. Mrs. Benedict is a resident of Cleveland, Ohio, and is the only remaining child of Amos.

The following subscribers during this month have our thanks for "value received;" Mrs. Margaret R. Royce, Cornelius T. Rathbone, Wm. L. Rathbone, A. R. Wright, C. E. Rathbun, Dr. Wm. R. Rathbone, Mrs. F. Edwin Gates, Mrs. Mary H. Strail, Mrs. Theo. F. Spafford, Mrs. Dolly R. Beers, M. A. Rathbun, Caroline S. Rathbone.