

## CHAPTER 5

### THE ANCESTRY OF JOSEPHINE PORTER TAYLOR

#### Introduction - Origins of the Porter Family

The early history of the Porter family is not known. The first member of the family for which data is available is John Porter. Information for the Porter family comes from Josephine's daughter, Sally (Taylor) French.

#### First Generation

##### 1. John Porter

- born 7 Jan 1756
- married 1783, probably York, York Co., Pennsylvania to **Elizabeth Hosack**<sup><1></sup>
  - born 7 Nov 1758
  - died 8 May 1822.
- John died 8 May 1822.

Children:

- i **Sarah Porter** born 23 Apr 1784; married **John Stevenson**.
  - ii **Margaret Porter** born 6 Nov 1785, died 27 Nov 1876.
  - iii **Mary Porter** born 2 Nov 1787, died 1 Oct 1860.
  - iv **John Porter** born 27 Aug 1789, died 1818, (buried at sea).
  - v **William Porter** born 10 Aug 1791, died 14 Jan 1833.
  - vi **Samuel Porter** born 20 Oct 1793, died 5 Nov 1861.
  - vii **Thomas Porter** (twin) born 13 Jan 1796, died 12 May 1879.
  - viii **Alexander Porter** (twin) born 13 Jan 1796, died 9 Nov 1870.
- 2 ix **Joseph Porter** born 8 Mar 1798, Washington Co., Pennsylvania.

#### Second Generation

##### 2. Joseph Porter

- born 8 Mar 1798, Washington Co., Pennsylvania
- married Rockbridge Co., Virginia to **Eliza Patten Moore**
  - born 27 Feb 1805

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1. **John Hosack** born 1734, died 19 Feb 1789, York (Adam) Co. Pennsylvania; married **Sarah --?--**. Their children were:
- i **David Hosack** (married **Hannah --?--**)
  - ii **William Hosack**
  - iii **Elizabeth Hosack** born 7 Nov 1758; married **John Porter**
  - iv **Mary Hosack** married **Robert Moore**
  - v **Jennet Hosack** married **Caleb Russel**
  - vi **John Hosack** born abt. 1769
  - vii **Adam Hosack** born abt. 1773

- died 22 Jun 1840.

- John died 27 Jul 1887.

Children:

- i **Samuel M. Porter** born 4 Apr 1825, died 8 Jun 1895; married (1) **(unknown)**; married (2) **Amanda Bronson**.
- ii **Ann E. Porter** born 13 Apr 1827, died 14 Nov 1888; married **William Thompson**.
- iii **David Porter** born 13 Apr 1829; married **Jane Patten**.
- 3** iv **Joseph Ewing Porter** born 1 May 1831, Brown Co., Ohio.

Eliza's parents were David Moore (born 10 May 1773, son of Capt. John Moore) and Ann Ewing (born 18 Jun 1872, daughter of James Ewing of Pennsylvania).

### Third Generation

#### 3. Joseph Ewing Porter

- born 1 May 1831, Brown Co., Ohio,
- married 22 Mar 1860, Ottawa, La Salle Co., Illinois to **Margaret Hossack**
  - born 16 Feb 1836,
  - died 17 Oct 1904, Ottawa, Illinois,
- Joseph died 21 Sep 1902, Ottawa, Illinois.

Children (all born in Ottawa, La Salle Co., Illinois):

- i **Elizabeth Porter** born 7 Mar 1861, died 11 Jun 1935, Ottawa, Illinois; married 18 Feb 1890, Ottawa, Illinois to **William F. Jacobs** (born 6 Dec 1859, Amboy, Lee Co., Illinois, died 21 Mar 1940 (1939?), Ottawa, Illinois. They are buried in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery, Ottawa, Illinois, in the Joseph and Margaret Porter family plot. They had no children.
- 4** ii **Jessie Porter** born 16 Nov 1862.
- 5** iii **Lincoln Ewing Porter** born 26 Feb 1865.
- 6** iv **Ann Lens Porter** born 5 Jun 1867.
- 7** v **Josephine Porter** (Twin) born 30 Apr 1870.
- vi **Margaret (Maggie) Porter** (Twin) born 30 Apr 1870, died in infancy, Ottawa, Illinois; buried in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery, Ottawa, Illinois, in her parents' family plot.
- vii **John Hossack Porter** born 4 Jan 1873; married 15 Oct 1892 to **Gertrude Stephens** (2nd marriage - divorced). They resided in Chicago and had no children. John, his brother Sidney and his brother-in-law Arthur Hook founded the Calumet Steel Company in 1908 (see note 4). John was active in the company for many years.
- viii **Louise Calkins Porter** born 14 Jul 1876, died 8 Aug 1939; married 29 Jun 1907, Ottawa, Illinois to **William Dyer Fullerton** (born 18 Aug 1863, died Mar 1932). They resided in Ottawa and had no children.
- 8** ix **Sidney Stevenson Porter** born 18 Sep 1880.

Joseph and Margaret are both buried in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery, Ottawa, Illinois<sup><2></sup>. Joseph founded the J. E. Porter Manufacturing Company and was a prominent member of the Ottawa community. Margaret was the daughter of John and Martha Hossack (see below).

### **INSERT: Family of John Hossack**

#### **John Hossack**

- born 6 Dec 1806, Elgin, Scotland
- married 25 Apr 1833, Quebec, Canada to **Martha Lens**,
  - born 28 Nov 1813, Grenock, Scotland
  - died 30 Aug 1899, Evanston, Cook Co., Illinois.

John died 8 Nov 1891, Ottawa, La Salle Co., Illinois.

Children<sup><3></sup>:

- i **Annie Hossack** born 26 Feb 1835, died 29 Oct 1916; married (1) **William Capron Richardson**; married (2) **David J. Price**.
- ii **George Barnett Hossack** born 31 Aug 1836, died 26 Aug 1911; married **Margaretta Frame**.
- iii **Margaret Hossack** born 16 Feb 1838, died 17 Oct 1904; married **Joseph E. Porter**.
- iv **John Forsyth Hossack** born 13 Sep 1840, died 10 Jun 1887; married **Mary Babcock**
- v **Henry Lens Hossack** born 27 Apr 1842, died 20 May 1936; married (1) **Medora Tuttle**; married (2) **Alice Jennings**.
- vi **Louise Hossack** born 21 Dec 1843, died 23 Sep 1918; married **William Wirt Calkins**.
- vii **William Hossack** born 10 Feb 1846, died 11 Feb 1920; married (1) **Ella Francis Kenyon**; married (2) **Augusta V. Strawn**.
- viii **James Alexander Hossack** born 4 Mar 1848, died 5 Oct 1892; married **Ermina Belle Dewey**.
- ix **Harriet Emma Hossack** born 2 Feb 1851, died 5 Sep 1936; married **John Edwin Scott**.
- x **Frederick Newton Hossack** born 8 Jan 1856, died 1948, married **Myra Ella Babcock**.
- xi **Florence Isabelle Hossack** born 5 Jun 1858, died 19 Jul 1892; married **Milo Putney Jr**.

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2. Joseph may have had a cousin, Henry Porter, who moved to Ottawa, Illinois, probably at about the same time as Joseph. A Porter family burial plot is located in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery, Ottawa, Illinois, close to the Joseph and Margaret Porter burial plot. This plot contains grave markers for Henry L. Porter (23 Dec 1794 - 17 May 1882); Mary A. Porter (21 Oct 1804 - 22 Sep 1881); Samuel W. Porter (1837 - 1916); Josephine Porter (15 May 1839 - 19 Apr 1902) and other related names. These probably mark graves for Henry and Mary Porter (parents), and members of their family.

3. Children of John Hossack from a history, "Direct Descendants of John Hossack of Ottawa", by Jay W. Preston, at URL: <<http://www.johnhossack.com/genealog.htm>>.

Both John and Martha are buried in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery, Ottawa, Illinois. Martha's mother was **Ann (Gilley) Lens** (born 22 Nov 1786, Scotland, died 4 Feb 1868, Ottawa, Illinois). Ann Lens is buried in the John and Martha Hossack family plot along with Henry Lens (Martha's brother?) (born 13 Oct 1824, died 22 Sep 1851).

John Hossack crossed the Atlantic at age 12 and entered the confectionery store of his uncle in Quebec, Canada. He worked with his uncle until nearly reaching adulthood, then went into business for himself. After his marriage to Martha Lens, he left the confectionery business and became a contractor on the "Long Soo" Canal on the St. Lawrence River where their three oldest children were born. In 1838, he left the "Long Soo" Canal and went to Chicago, attracted by the proposed building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. He secured a contract on that and worked on it until funds ran out and work stopped, then turned to farming in Cook Co., IL. In 1849 he moved to Ottawa, and was followed there by the rest of his family in 1850. John entered the lumber business, then began buying and shipped grain to Chicago, in which he became one of the largest dealers in the west. He continued in business until 1873 when he became totally blind. During the Civil War, the Hossacks were active with the "Underground Railway"<sup><4></sup>.



Martha crossed the Atlantic as a child with her parents to Quebec, where she married John Hossack. Martha was the mother of 11 children and lived to see them all grown to adults and settled in their own homes. There was not a death in their family for 54 years. In 1883, at John and Martha's golden wedding anniversary, all their children were present (see photo).<sup><3b></sup>

Standing left to right: Emma, James, Annie, William, Belle, Margaret, George, Louise.  
Seated: Henry, Frederick, John and Martha, and John

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4. Reddick Public Library, Ottawa, Illinois:
- (a) "**History of La Salle County, Illinois**", by U.J. Hoffman, The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1906, p. 701-702.
  - (b) Typewritten pamphlet entitled "**La Salle County Figurines**" containing brief biographies of a number of outstanding women of Ottawa.

## Fourth Generation

### 4. Jessie Porter

- born 16 Nov 1862, Ottawa, La Salle Co., Illinois
  - married 15 Nov 1886, Ottawa, Illinois to **George W. Yentzer**
    - born 14 Mar 1855
    - died 21 Nov 1929.
  - Jessie died 17 Dec 1934.
- Children (all born in Ottawa, La Salle Co., Illinois):
- i **Norman P. Yentzer** born 19 May 1892; married 16 Oct 1917 to **Ellen Marie Van Buren** (born 1 Mar 1895). They have children: 1) Norman Yentzer (born 14 Dec 1918); 2) Richard Van Buren Yentzer (born 21 Sep 1921).
  - ii **Leighton Ewing Yentzer** born 30 Jul 1896; married 16 Jun 1923 to **Verna Clark** (born 27 Jun 1897). They have children: 1) Leighton Ewing Yentzer Jr. (born 22 Apr 1926); 2) David Clark Yentzer (born 29 May 1928); 3) Charlotte Yentzer (born 11 Dec 1931).
  - iii **Margaret (Peggy) Yentzer** born 15 Mar 1899; married 15 Oct 1921, Ottawa, Illinois to **Robert Glover Robertson Jr.** (born 21 Jul 1897, died 4 Jul 1943). They have children: 1) Robert Glover Robertson III (born 6 Feb 1925); 2) Norman Leighton Robertson (born 3 May 1938).

### 5. Lincoln Ewing Porter ("Ewing")

- born 26 Feb 1865, Ottawa, La Salle Co., Illinois
- married 23 May 1889 to **Ann Combs**,
  - born 29 Jul 1869,
  - died 28 Jul 1936.

Children:

- i **Lincoln Porter** born 2 Mar 1890, died 5 Oct 1933.

The family resided in Ottawa, wintering in Jacksonville, Florida in later years.

### 6. Ann ("Annie") Lens Porter

- born 5 Jun 1867, Ottawa, La Salle Co., Illinois,
  - married 9 Jun 1892, Ottawa, Illinois to **Arthur S. Hook**
    - born 3 Aug 1868, Oak Park, Cook Co., Illinois,
    - died 9 May 1927.
- Children:
- i **Harmon Porter Hook** born 31 Jan 1897, died 15 Dec 1918, buried in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery, Ottawa, Illinois, with his parents.
  - ii **Joseph Porter Hook** born 27 Mar 1901, died 29 Sep 1943; married 6 Oct 1928, Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois to **Esther L. Lindsten** (born 3 Feb 1900, died 12 Sep 1957, in Land O'Lakes, Vilas Co., Wisconsin). Joseph and Esther are buried in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery, Ottawa, Illinois, in the Joseph and Margaret Porter family plot. Esther was killed in an

automobile accident while vacationing in Wisconsin<sup><<5>></sup>. She and her children resided in River Forest, Illinois, at the time of her death. Esther's parents were Edward and Clara Lindsten. Joseph and Esther had children: 1) Arthur S. Hook II (born 22 Jul 1929; 2) Edward Lindsten Hook (born 9 Oct 1933)

Annie and Arthur are buried in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery, Ottawa, Illinois. In 1908, Arthur and his brothers-in-law, John Porter and Sidney Porter, founded the Calumet Steel Company (see note 4). Annie lived in Oak Park, Illinois, after the death of her husband.

### 7. Josephine Porter (Twin)

- born 30 Apr 1870, Ottawa, La Salle Co., Illinois,
- married 30 Oct 1894, Ottawa, Illinois to **Charles Philender Taylor** (see #10, Chapter 1)
- Josephine died 14 Oct 1938, Ottawa, Illinois.

Josephine and Charles are buried in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery, Ottawa, Illinois.

### 8. Sidney Stevenson Porter

- born 18 Sep 1880, Ottawa, La Salle Co., Illinois
- married 9 Feb 1918, St. Paul, Ramsey Co., Minnesota to **Elizabeth Skinner**,  
- born 9 Oct 1886.
- Sidney died 13 Mar 1936, Hollywood, Broward Co., Florida.

Children:

- i **James Skinner Porter** born 18 Dec 1918.

Sidney and his family resided in Evanston, Illinois. While vacationing in Pompano, Florida, he was killed in an automobile accident and his wife was seriously injured but survived. He spent his youth in Ottawa and went from Ottawa to New York with his brother, J. H. Porter, when a young man to enter the employ of the Tonawanda Steel company. In 1908, with J. H. Porter and Arthur S. Hook, he organized the Calumet Steel company. He served as vice president of this firm until he closed out his interests in the company in 1935, and was general manager of the company for many years, becoming a figure of national importance in the steel industry. He was chairman of the Evanston police award commission for several years. He was also a member of the Evanston hospital board and a former Evanston alderman.<sup><6></sup>

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5. "Ottawa Daily Republican Times", 14 Sep 1957, Obituary for Mrs. Esther L. Hook.

6. "Ottawa Reporter", 14 Mar 1936, Obituary for Sidney S. Porter