

A Genealogy of the  
**Porter Family**

of

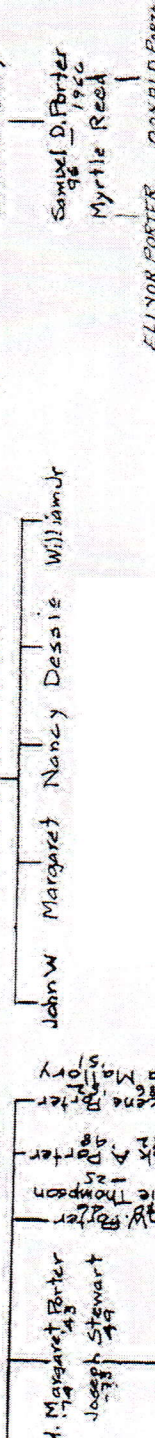
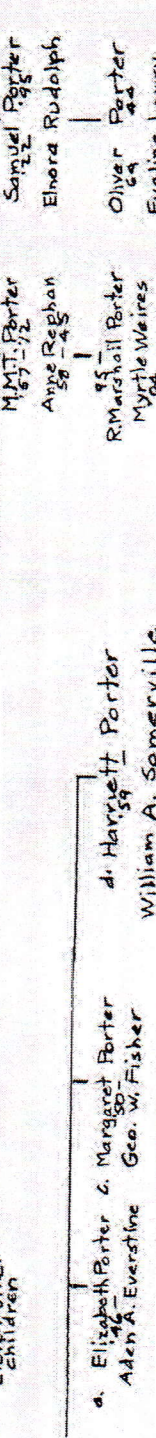
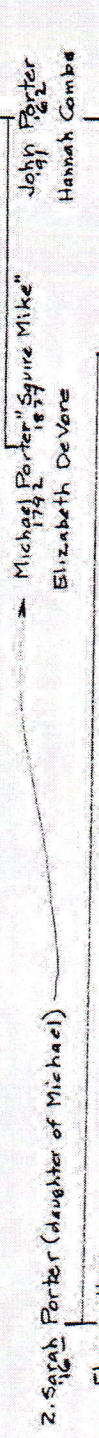
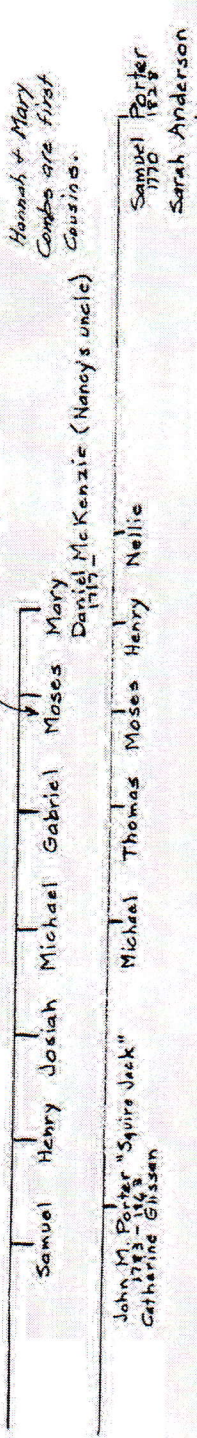
Maryland  
West Virginia  
Michigan

by

**Samuel Doak Porter**

1896 - 1966

Moses is g.g. father of "Gov. Bill" Porter



Hannah & Mary Combs are first Cousins.

Prepared 8-7-65 by 2

Samuel D. Porter  
2720 Bedford Rd.  
Ann Arbor, Mich

Descendants of John Wesley Porter  
by Wilda Kelly, Wanda Stewart,  
RUBY SMITH, McKenzie data  
from Col. G. T. H. + John A. Smith.

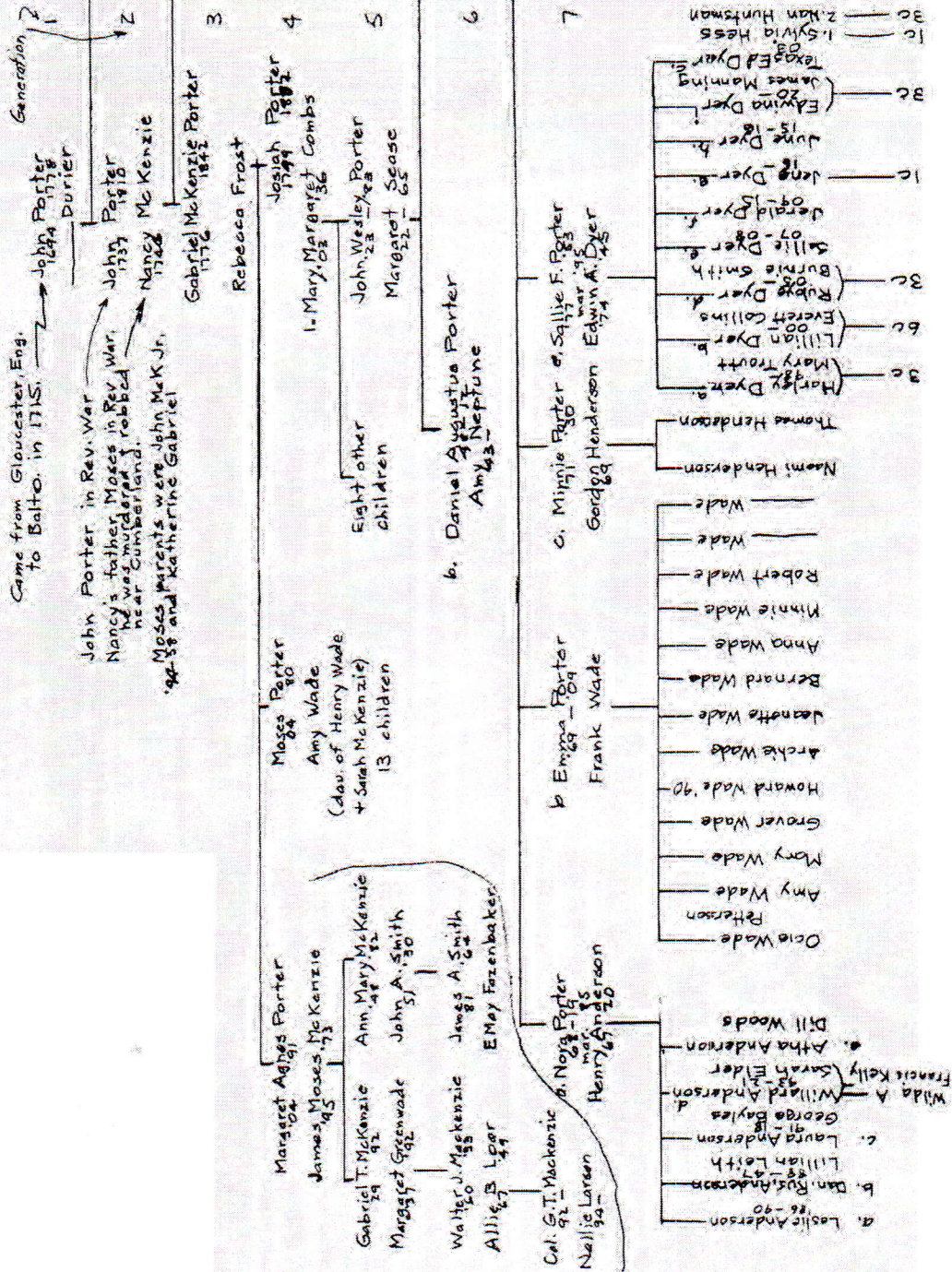
ELIJAH PORTER 1724  
MARK MUMFORD 1727  
BARBARA S. MUMFORD LUKY  
SUSANNE  
TIMOTHY 1727

Lewis Porter  
Margaret Porter  
Frank Porter  
Nattie Thompson  
Joseph Porter  
Joseph Stewart  
Wanda Stewart  
Dorothy Martin  
Alice D. Stewart  
1000 A. Willis

Came from Gloucester, Eng. to Balto. in 1715.

Generation 2

John Porter in Rev. War. Nancy's father Moses in Rev. War. he was murdered & robbed near Cumberland. Moses' parents were John McK. Jr. 1748-88 and Katherine Gabriel 1748-88.



① Generation

Prepared by S.D. Porter  
2170 Bedford Rd  
Ann Arbor, Mich.  
Oct. 1962.

John Porter  
Came to Carrol Co. Md. in 1715  
from Bristol, Eng.

John Porter  
1737-1810  
Rev. War Soldier - Built Rose Meadows  
Nancy McKenzie

②

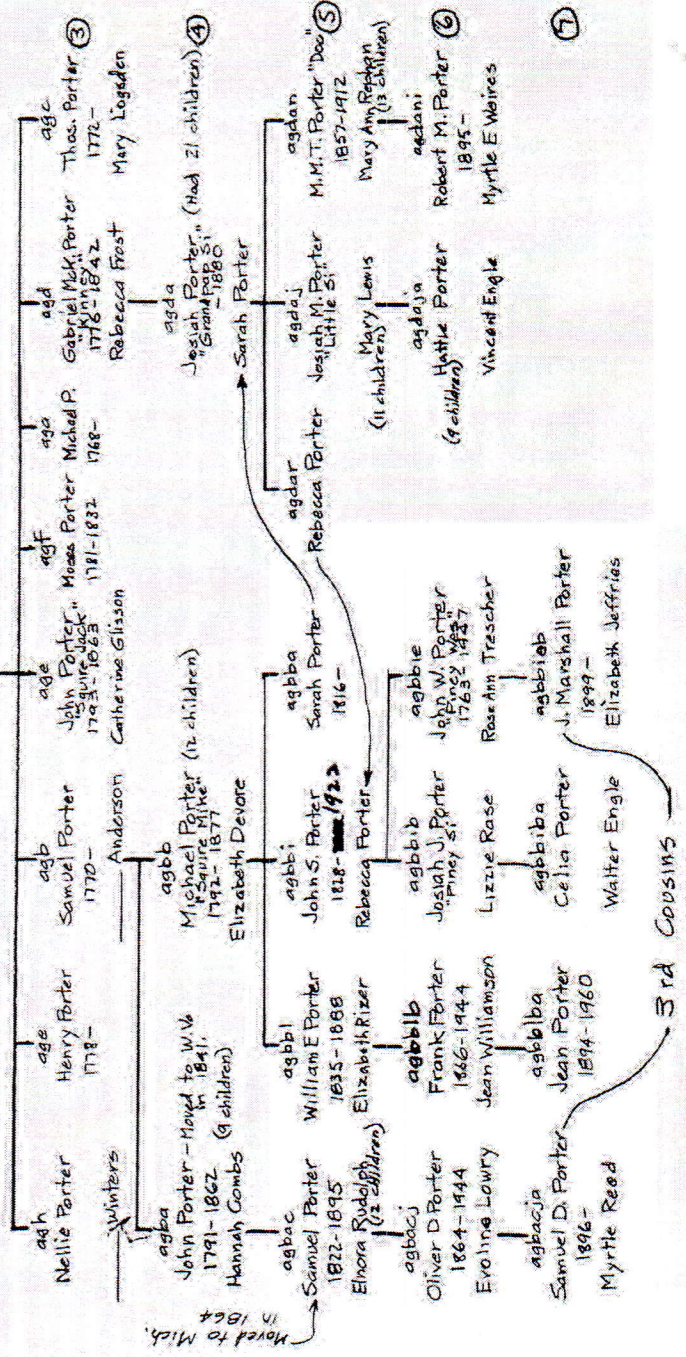
③

④

⑤

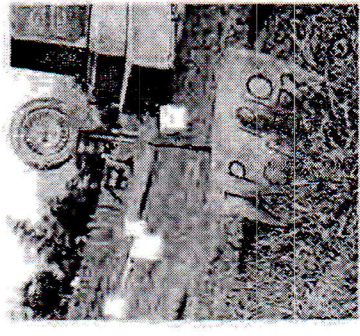
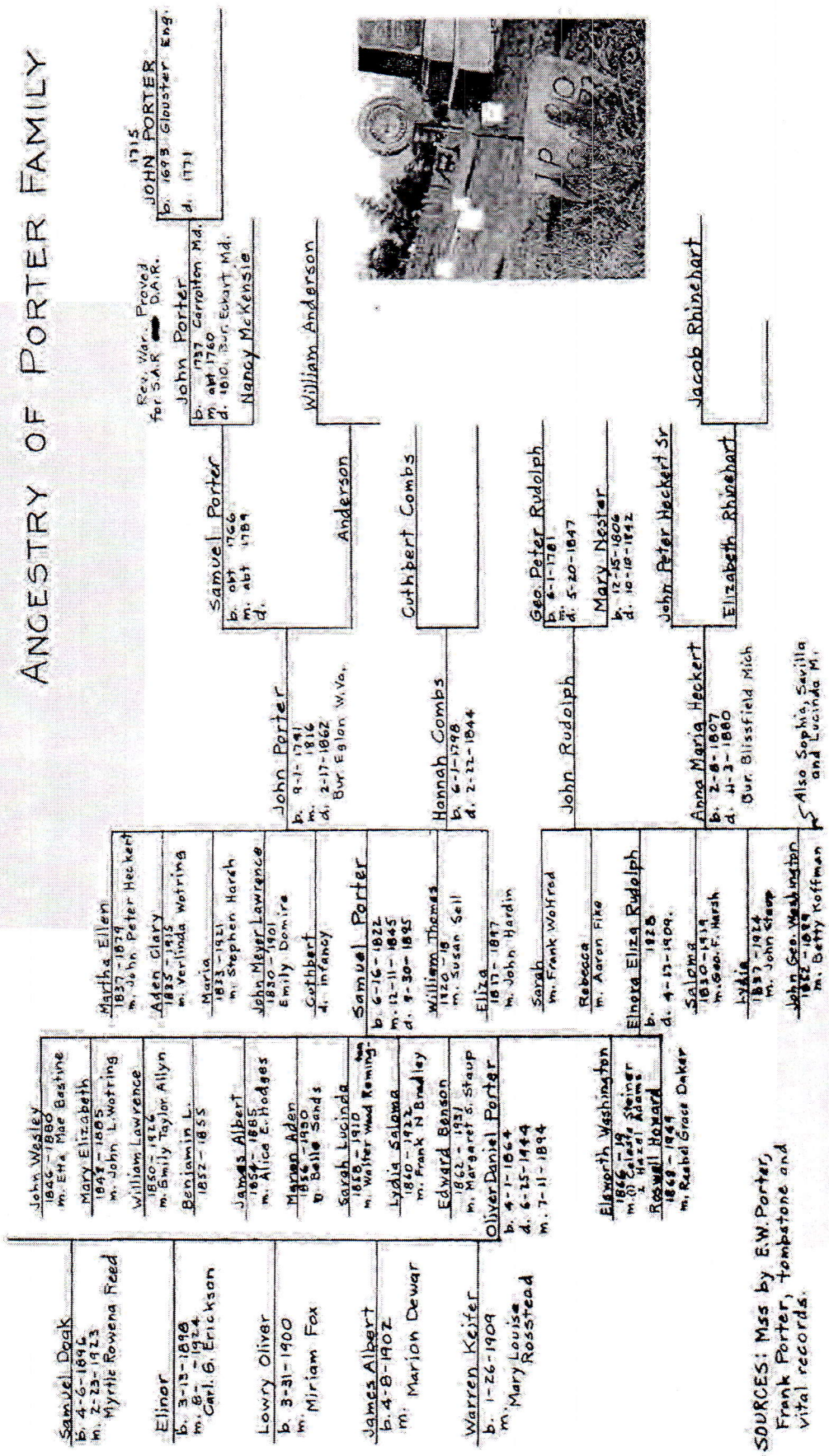
⑥

⑦



3rd Cousins

# ANCESTRY OF PORTER FAMILY



SOURCES: Miss by E.W. Porter, Frank Porter, tombstone and vital records.



Published by his wife, Myrtle Reed Porter  
and their children as a memorial, 1971

Direct communication concerning book  
to his daughter, Mrs. Elinor Porter Muhl



*Samuel D. Porter*



## FOREWORD

Frank Porter (agbbblb), in 1928, prepared a manuscript "Historical Sketches of Some Porters". Ellsworth Porter (agback), in 1931, wrote "History of the Porter Family", starting with emigrant John Porter and containing mostly the descendants of his own grandfather, Samuel (agbac). Mrs. Amberson Driscoll (agbafebax) compiled a very complete history of the Porter Family using the histories named above plus one by George L. Porter (agbaha).

The writer has read these histories and obtained additional information from published local histories and by correspondence with various Porter relatives. It appeared wise to summarize all of this information regarding the Porter Family into one manuscript, incomplete and sketchy though it may be, in order to preserve it for those who may wish to pursue the genealogy further. It is the author's hope that other Porters or their relatives, seeing this book, may furnish information which will make it more complete and authentic.

A lettering system for each individual is used in the text. This lettering system is called the Waldo-Lincoln system and provides unlimited flexibility for adding names as they are discovered.

The writer wishes to thank all of those who furnished him with information, at the same time regretting that so many requests for information fell on deaf ears. Special thanks are due to Col. Gabriel Mackenzie, James A. Smith, Robert and Myrtle Porter, J. Marshall Porter, John and Malvina Barchus, Lena Heckert Beal, Gaylord Wotring, Velma Bruce, Bert Oliver Porter to name a few, without whose help this would have been much less complete.

A brief biography of the author appears as part of his listing (agbacja).

Mrs. Samuel D. Porter wishes to express appreciation to Mrs. Madeleine Crozer Smith, whose able assistance made possible the publication of this work.

The second printing was edited and prepared by the author's daughter, Elinor Porter Muhl (agbacjaa). Corrections and new information have been included as received, although no concerted effort has been made to obtain new information. We have made every effort to insure that the information included is correct. However, due to the untimely death of the author and the fact that his work has been carried on by others, some errors might still be included, for which we are sorry.

#### SOURCES AND SYMBOLS

TW	History of Allegany Co., Md. by Thomas and Williams, Vol. I and II Pub. 1923.
Sc	History of Western Md., by Scharff.
EP	History of the Porter Family, by Ellsworth W. Porter.
FP	Historical Sketches of Some Porters, by Frank Porter.
Lo	History of Cumberland, by Lowdermilk.
GW	Gaylord Wotring.
LB	Lena Heckert Beal.
MWP	Myrtle Weires Porter.
JMP	John Marshall Porter.
GTM	Col. Gabriel T. Mackenzie.
MPB	John and Malvina Barchus.
LEX	Alexander O. Porter.
TR	Tombstone Record.
CR	County Record or other vital statistics.
BR	Bible Record.
BP	Bert Oliver Porter.
VB	Velma Bruce.
JAS	James Albert Smith.

A sign (\*) in front of the name of a child indicates that additional information will be given in the next generation.

The spelling of the name McKenzie may vary. Col. Mackenzie believes that it should be as in his name. FP and most of the histories spell it McKenzie. Most of the names in the Cumberland Telephone Directory, and there are a lot of them, are spelled McKenzie.

## FIRST GENERATION

a JOHN PORTER, the emigrant was born in 1694 in England. He came from Gloucester near Bristol in 1715. He died in 1776. It is believed that he was a Jacobite and fled from England because of his opposition to the government. The History of Allegany County, Maryland, by Thomas and Williams says, page 589, that he fled from England about 1715 because he "made himself obnoxious to the party in power by singing of his own composition at a gathering of his neighbors, which was very uncomplimentary to the ruling monarch, King George I, on which account he was obliged to flee the country. He settled in Baltimore, Md. about 1715."

There is a tradition that he was deported from England as an indentured servant and sold to one who would pay his transportation for a certain number of years of his services. This was no disgrace since many came to this country voluntarily indentured to pay for their passage.

There are many records of Porters in Connecticut, but no connection has been established with the Porters who settled in Maryland. George Washington's diary frequently mentioned a Mr. Porter which EP believes to be in our line, but this has never been substantiated.

The Jacobites were the Catholic party in England. Maryland was formed by Lord Baltimore as a Catholic Colony. It is believed by many that all the early Porters were Catholic and that the change to Protestant by many of them came with the wave of Methodism which swept the country in the early part of the nineteenth century. FP says that his Grandfather, Michael Porter, "Squire Mike", attended St. Patrick's Church at Mount Savage until middle life. About 1840 he became a Protestant along with his brother John (agba) and many others. Col. Mackenzie (agdeddb) who has done a great amount of Porter and Mackenzie research, believes that the early Porters were Protestant.

Little is known of John Porter. It is believed that he acquired land near Carrollton, Maryland, and that his children were born there. GTM during three weeks or more of research in the Hall of Records in Annapolis, found nothing definite about John in the way of deeds, wills, or land transfers. Tradition gives the family six sons and one daughter, who is believed to be Mary or Molly and to be the wife of Daniel McKenzie. Eber Cockley, of the Historical Society of Somerset County, Pa., names John's children as John, Moses, Samuel, Henry, Josiah, Michael and Gabriel in that order stating that John was the youngest. The Lo reference under John Porter (ag) bears out Eber Cockley's list of sons. Malvina Porter Barchus has many records of Porters of long ago. These records show that John Porter married a Miss Durier, probably within ten years of his arrival in Maryland. Their children are

Samuel Porter  
Henry Porter  
Josiah Porter  
Michael Porter

Gabriel Porter  
\*af Moses Porter 1735-1794  
\*ag John Porter 1737-1810  
Mary Porter (Molly)

These names are used over and over again as given names of Porters through succeeding generations, down even to the author's own given name of Samuel Porter. This repetition of given names, while indicating family pride is very confusing to historians and genealogists, and called forth a remark by Col. Mackenzie, "Why did so many ancestors have to use the same name?"

The writer regrets that the succeeding pages of this book will be limited largely to the descendants of John, the son of John Porter, the emigrant. This is not intentional, although admittedly the book would be about seven times as large if these were included. In all of the author's research as well as that of Col. Mackenzie and James Albert Smith (agdeie) almost nothing has turned up which goes back to the other six sons of the original John. And the author has not had the good fortune to discover a historian descendant of one of these other brothers.

## SECOND GENERATION

af MOSES PORTER, son of John Porter (a) and ----- Durier, was born in 1735, and died in 1794. He settled near Wellersburg, Pa., just after he and his brother John (ag) helped with the survey of the Mason-Dixon line after 1763. It is likely that he later moved over the state line into Maryland with his brother. He and his brother John, served in the Revolutionary War in Captain Paxton's Bedford County Militia. (Pa. Archives, 5th Series, Vol. V. p. 116). Wellersburg is in Bedford County. He married Margaret -----.

In his will, reported by JAS, recorded in Book A, page 13, July 10, 1794, Moses gives his wife's name as Margaret. Children inheriting are given below. His real estate included Lots 3395 and 3396 plus 37-1/2 acres. Witnesses: William Shaw, Aaron McKenzie, and Michael Porter, (ad)

Aaron Porter  
\*afb John Porter  
William Porter  
Joshua Porter  
Bethel Porter  
Elinor Porter  
Thomas Porter  
Moses Porter  
Sarah Porter

ag JOHN PORTER, son of John Porter (a) and ----- Durier, was born in 1737 in Carrollton, Maryland. He married about 1767, Nancy Ann McKenzie. She was born in 1746. She is the daughter of Moses and Jane McKenzie and the grand-daughter of John McKenzie and Katherine Gabriel. Her father was murdered near the Cumberland on his return home after selling a farm.

John and his brother helped survey the Mason-Dixon Line between Maryland and Pennsylvania in 1763. Shortly thereafter they settled in Wellersburg, Pa., just north of the state line. It is believed by some and stated by Scharff that John and Moses thought that they were locating in Maryland. When they found that they were in the wrong state, they sold out and moved to the vicinity of Frostburg, Md. It seems unlikely to the author, who is himself a surveyor, that two surveyors could make such a mistake. It is more likely that they found the antagonism of the Pennsylvania Quakers too strong for them, an opinion held by James Albert Smith.

John and his brother Moses served in the Revolutionary War in Capt. Paxton's Bedford County militia (Pa. Archives, 5th Series, Vol. V. page 116). Several of his descendants have used his name in joining the Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution. Four are given below:

Mable Porter Mason (agbahac) DAR # 384096.  
E. W. Porter (agback) SAR # 53424.  
Carl Porter (agbacka) SAR # 58138.  
Samuel Doak Porter (agbacja) SAR # 72769.

Scharff's History of Western Maryland says that John Porter settled between Cumberland and Frostburg in 1792 on a farm known as Rose Meadows. In Lowdermilk's History of Cumberland, page 265, it is stated that "in 1787, Henry, Moses and John Porter were located on lands west of Fort Cumberland; also Samuel, Josiah, Gabriel and Daniel McKenzie". It seems unlikely that these Porters were the sons of John and Nancy. In 1787 their oldest son, Michael would be only 19 years old and the rest of the children younger. It does not appear that Lowdermilk would have named them as being "located on lands". It must be inferred, therefore, that they were John's brothers. The Daniel McKenzie mentioned by Lowdermilk was the brother of Moses McKenzie who was the father of Nancy Ann (agx). (See also agde). It is believed that Daniel married John Porter's sister, Mary or Molly as his first wife. The date, 1787, was before this area was surveyed into soldiers' lots by Francis Deakin. Settlers in this area were allowed to purchase their holdings for about one shilling per acre. (Lo).

The original Porter land was known as "Rose Meadows" from the profusion of wild roses which grew there. John built a substantial house on a south slope which remained in the family until about 1864. (FP). At that time, the owner, William R. Porter (aggc) sold it to a mining company who wanted it for the coal and tan-bark (JMP). The homestead came back into the family about 1916 when it was purchased by Walter and Celia Porter Engle (agbbiba) and is now owned by their son, Lester. There is no trace of the house today but a sketch painting thereof is in the possession of the Engle family.

The Porter Cemetery, sometimes called the Rose Meadows Cemetery, is located a short distance north of the site. It is in this cemetery that John and many other Porters are buried. His tombstone is a rough slab inscribed "I. P. 1810 AGED 73" (In those days J was sometimes made like an I). The grave is additionally identified by a DAR emblem.

The children of John and Nancy Ann McKenzie are (Sc)

*aga	Michael Porter	1768-
*agb	Samuel Porter	1770-1828
*agc	Thomas Porter	1772-
*agd	Gabriel Porter	1776-1842
*age	Henry Porter	1778-
*agf	Moses Porter	1781-1872
*agg	John Porter, "Squire Jack"	1783-1863
*agh	Nellie Porter	1785-

not correct -  
Michael A.  
McKenzie  
believes the  
Daniel  
referred to  
was Daniel  
s/o Gabriel  
(b1715)  
Daniel  
Mackenzie  
who married  
Molly  
stayed in  
eastern MD  
his entire  
life.  
Michael  
McKenzie  
12/2020

THIRD GENERATION

afb JOHN PORTER, son of Moses (af). His children include

- \*afba Evan Porter
- \*afbb Henry Porter

aga MICHAEL PORTER, son of John Porter (ag) and Nancy Ann McKenzie, was born in Carrollton, Maryland, in 1768 (FP); 1763 (MPB). He married Sarah Jane Pond. Their children are (MPB)

- \*agaa John Porter 1794-
- \*agab Thomas Porter
- \*agac Samuel Scott Porter
- \*agad Elizabeth Porter 1787-1866
- \*agae Henry Porter
- agaf Mary Porter, married George Crow.
- agag Lucinda Porter, married ----- Merrill.

agb SAMUEL PORTER, son of John Porter (ag) and Nancy Ann McKenzie, was born in Carrollton, Md. about 1770. He was raised at Rose Meadows and married about 1790, Sarah Jane Anderson (JAS) the daughter of William Anderson, a neighbor, whose nearby estate was known as "Play Place". Samuel and Sarah Jane settled on Pine Mountain where they built a cabin about one half mile south of Play Place. Samuel was a great hunter and was known as one of the best rifle shots in the Allegany Mountains. Two of the Freeport coal seams outcropped on his land, but Samuel never realized this and burned wood all his life as did his son, Michael, who succeeded to the ownership and sold the coal rights under more than 300 acres for \$600. Samuel served in the War of 1812 and died in 1828.

Frank Porter relates a visit with Rebecca Porter Hardin (agbbd) in 1901 who told him that Samuel Porter had four sons and three daughters, that she knew where Samuel died and was buried, but not the date. It is supposed that he was buried in the Porter Cemetery. Their children include

- \*agba John Porter 1791-1862
- \*agbb Michael Porter, "Squire Mike", 1792-1877
- \*agbc William Porter 1794
- \*agbd Benjamin Porter
- \*agbe Elizabeth Porter

agc THOMAS PORTER, son of John Porter (ag) and Nancy Ann McKenzie, was born in Carrollton, Md., in 1772. He married Susanna Logsdon (JAS) Nov. 21, 1796 (TW 663) (CR). She is the daughter of William Logsdon and Margaret Wooley. William is the son of John Logsdon (1655-1730) and grandson of William Logsdon. William married Honora O'Flynn, an indentured servant brought from Ireland (GTM). Thomas was a Captain in the War of 1812. Their children include (GTM)

\*agca Thomas Porter 1797-1863

\*agcb Winifred Porter  
Nancy Porter, living in Ohio in 1828.  
John Porter, living in Allegany County in 1828.

agd GABRIEL MCKENZIE PORTER, son of John Porter (ag) and Nancy Ann McKenzie, was born Sept. 17, 1776, in Carrollton, Md. (GTM). He married May 10, 1797, (CR) Rebecca Frost of Frostburg, Md. She was the daughter of Josiah Frost of New Jersey (JAS). Josiah Frost owned the land where Frostburg now stands and built the first house there. He was a "contractor" on the "Old Pike". Gabriel died April 20, 1842, at the home of his son Moses (Sc 1504). Their children are

\*agda Josiah Porter "Grandpap Si" 1799-1882

\*agdb James Porter

\*agdc John Porter

\*agdd Moses Porter 1804-1880

\*agde Margaret Agnes Porter 1804-1891

Gabriel Porter married, second, April 17, 1837, Sarah Anderson (CR).

age HENRY PORTER, son of John Porter (ag) and Nancy Ann McKenzie, was born in Carrollton, Md., in 1778. He was an Ensign in the War of 1812. He married Margaret Logsdon, a sister to Susanna (agcx). Their children are

John Porter  
David Porter  
Nancy Porter  
Henry Porter

agf MOSES PORTER, son of John Porter (ag) and Nancy Ann McKenzie, was born in 1781, in Carrollton, Md., and died in 1872. He married Rachel Frost. Their children include

\*agfa John M. Porter, "Bob" 1812-1844

\*agfb James Porter 1822-1890

agg JOHN M. PORTER, "Squire Jack", son of John Porter (ag) and Nancy Ann McKenzie, was born June 23, 1783, at Wellersburg, Pa. He was a captain in the War of 1812. He married Catherine Glissan, a daughter of Thomas Glissan. She was born in 1786 and died in October 1846. John died Feb. 15, 1863, at the home of his son-in-law, Judge Douglas Percy. John succeeded to the ownership of Rose Meadows.

There is in the art gallery of the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., a portrait of Captain John M. Porter of the War of 1812, known to thousands of his day as "Squire Jack" Porter. The 12 x 16 inch portrait was done in the eighties by the artist Frank Blackwell Mayer of Baltimore, during a visit of Mr. Mayer to Captain Porter at the latter's farm "Rose Meadows" near Eckhart, Md. The picture is the property of the National Collection of Fine Arts and is catalogued "Independence". See pg. (18b).

Captain Porter opened the first coal mines for domestic purposes in Allegany County on his farm. Their children are



THIRD GENERATION

9

\*agga John Combs Porter 1814-1846  
\*aggb James Madison Porter 1817-1890  
\*aggc William R. Porter, "Cream Billy" 1819  
\*aggd Eleanor Maria Porter  
\*agge Nancy Porter see agab  
and probably two others

agh NELLIE PORTER, daughter of John Porter (ag) and Nancy Ann McKenzie was born in Wellersburg, Pa. in 1785. FP refers to her as Nellie Mattingly-Winters. This would imply two marriages. JAS believes that she married a Mittinger and has seen a stone in the Porter Cemetery, "Dear Aunt Nellie Mittinger", near a monument to John Porter. John Barchus (agadbba) finds in his father's notebook, "Aunt Nellie Mattingly-Born 1785, died 1855."