

# Untangling Two Sidney Porters of Hadley, Massachusetts and Farmington, Connecticut

by Richard Hall <sup>[1]</sup>

One morning in the fall of 1822, a young salesman for a Connecticut clock maker stepped off the stage to have breakfast near Kings Crossroads in Guilford County, North Carolina. It is said that by the time breakfast was over and the stage was ready to continue its journey, Sidney Porter had decided to stay.<sup>[2]</sup> A year and a half later, Sidney Porter married Ruth Coffin Worth.<sup>[3]</sup> Ruth's brother Jonathan later became the governor of North Carolina.<sup>[4]</sup> Sidney and Ruth went on to have nine children,<sup>[5]</sup> the eldest being Algernon Sidney Porter, father of William Sydney Porter,<sup>[6]</sup> also known as short story author O. Henry.

In 1984 Gary Boyd Roberts and the late William Addams Reitwiesner published *American Ancestors and Cousins of The Princess of Wales*.<sup>[7]</sup> Among those listed as a cousin of Princess Diana is William Sydney Porter.<sup>[8]</sup> This kinship to Princess Diana is said to be through William Sydney Porter's grandfather Sidney Porter, husband of Ruth Coffin Worth. Roberts and Reitwiesner identified Sidney Porter as the son of Eleazar and Sarah (Keyes) Porter Jr.,<sup>[9]</sup> of Hadley, Massachusetts. Roberts has informed this author that the identification was based on genealogical charts published in Ethel Stephens Arnett's *From England to North Carolina: Two Special Gifts*.<sup>[10]</sup>

At first glance, this identification for Sidney Porter would seem to be correct. Sidney and Ruth Porter named a son Algernon Porter. Sidney's alleged sister Maria, daughter of Eleazar Porter Jr. and wife of Samuel Bayard Woodward, also named a son Algernon.<sup>[11]</sup> With both Sidney and Maria giving a child the uncommon name of Algernon, it seems to support the idea that the two were siblings. However, there is evidence that creates doubt with this identification.

The town records of Hadley, Massachusetts, contain the birth dates for nine children of Eleazar Porter Jr. "& Sarah his Wife." Their sixth child, Sidney Porter was born 29 September 1795.<sup>[12]</sup> However, the gravestone for Sidney Porter, who died at North Carolina in 1848 and is buried alongside his wife Ruth, has the inscription that he was born "in Connecticut Feb. 2, 1790."<sup>[13]</sup> Also, an obituary appeared in the *Hartford Courant* noting the death of Sidney Porter "a native of Farmington in this State." Other evidence includes published genealogies that identify the wife of Sidney Porter, son of Eleazar, as either Hannah or Harriett Lane and not Ruth Coffin Worth.<sup>[14]</sup> In spite of these, the identification of Sidney Porter, husband of Ruth, as the son of Eleazar and Sarah (Keyes) Porter Jr. still prevails to this day on major genealogical websites.<sup>[15]</sup> The fact that no Connecticut birth record has been found for Sidney Porter of Farmington, Connecticut, may

have contributed to Sidney Porter of Hadley, Massachusetts, being identified as the husband of Ruth Coffin Worth simply through the process of elimination.

The purpose of this article is to present additional evidence that definitively shows that Sidney Porter of Hadley, Massachusetts, was not the husband of Ruth Coffin Worth, and to identify the Sidney Porter of Farmington, Connecticut, who was.

### **Sidney Porter of Hadley, Massachusetts**

Sidney Porter, son of Eleazar and Sarah (Keyes) Porter Jr., married Hannah Lane, daughter of Rev. Otis and Elizabeth (Paine) Lane. They were married by Hannah's father at Sterling, Connecticut, 8 October 1829.<sup>[16]</sup> The couple were married for over four decades; however, they apparently spent much of that time apart. The 1860 U.S. Census and the 1865 Connecticut State Census show Sidney Porter living, without his wife, at his brother David Keys Porter's home in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.<sup>[17]</sup> After David died in 1868,<sup>[18]</sup> Sidney is found in the 1870 U.S. Census living in the household of Francis and Rebecca Cooper at Sturbridge.<sup>[19]</sup>

During most of the 1870s, Sidney's wife Hannah (Lane) Porter was living in Olivet, Michigan, working as the matron of the Ladies' Hall at Olivet College.<sup>[20]</sup> Hannah is buried in the Oak Ridge Cemetery at Southbridge, Massachusetts. She shares a tombstone with her brother Samuel Lane, which is inscribed "Hannah Lane Porter, 1809-1895."<sup>[21]</sup> Samuel Lane is mentioned in the Worcester County, Massachusetts, probate records for the estate of his brother-in-law Sidney Porter. Sidney and Hannah (Lane) Porter had no surviving children as indicated by the Administrator's Petition in the probate file for the estate of Sidney Porter. The Administrator's Petition identifies Sidney's widow as Hannah L. Porter and his "only next of kin" as his brother "Eleazar Porter of Stamford Ct."<sup>[22]</sup> Sidney and Eleazar's siblings had all died prior to 1874.<sup>[23]</sup>

Sidney Porter is buried in the Woodland Cemetery at Stamford, Connecticut.<sup>[24]</sup> His grave is in the family plot of his brother, Eleazar Porter.<sup>[25]</sup> Eleazar Porter was born 26 August 1799 as the eighth child of Eleazar Porter Jr. and Sarah Keys.<sup>[26]</sup> The inscription on Sidney's gravestone gives his birth date as 29 September 1795 and his death date as 24 December 1873. Eleazar Porter's gravestone inscription gives his birth date as 26 August 1799 and his death date as 7 January 1884. Although Sidney's memorial and image of his gravestone can be found on FindaGrave.com, as of this writing, he is incorrectly identified as the wife of his brother, Eleazar Porter. Based on the birth dates in the Hadley town records and on the gravestones for Sidney and Eleazar Porter, there can be no doubt that these graves are for the sons of Eleazar Jr. and Sarah (Keyes) Porter.<sup>[27]</sup>

Based on the evidence above, Sidney Porter of Hadley, Massachusetts, son of Eleazar and Sarah (Keyes) Porter Jr., was not the husband of Ruth Coffin Worth as identified by Roberts and Reitwiesner.

### Genealogical Summary

1. **ELEAZAR PORTER JR.**<sup>6</sup> was born at Hadley, Mass., 14 June 1762, son of Eleazer<sup>5</sup> (*Eleazer*<sup>4</sup>, *Samuel*<sup>3</sup>, *Samuel*<sup>2</sup>, *John*<sup>1</sup>) and Susanna (Edwards) Porter.<sup>[28]</sup> He died at Sturbridge, Mass., 2 May 1849 and was buried there in North Cemetery.<sup>[29]</sup>

Eleazar Porter Jr. married at Hadley, 5 January 1783, **SARAH KEYES**.<sup>[30]</sup> She was born at Warren, Mass., 8 October 1761, daughter of David and Submit (Belding) Keyes.<sup>[31]</sup> Sarah died at Sturbridge, 26 March 1838 and was buried there in North Cemetery.<sup>[32]</sup>

Children of Eleazar Jr.<sup>6</sup> and Sarah (Keyes) Porter; births all recorded at Hadley, Mass.:<sup>[33]</sup>

- i. **DAVID KEYS PORTER**<sup>2</sup>, b. 25 Feb. 1784, d. 5 Aug. 1868, m. **MARY INGRAHAM**.<sup>[34]</sup>
- ii. **SUSANNA R. PORTER**, b. 20 Dec. 1785, d. 11 Jan. 1830.<sup>[35]</sup>
- iii. **SARAH PORTER**, b. 4 Mar. 1788, d. 14 May 1855, m. **SAMUEL PETTES**.<sup>[36]</sup>
- iv. **EDWIN PORTER**, b. 11 Jun. 1790, d. 22 Sep. 1865, m. (1). **MEHITABLE HUGHES**, m. (2). **MARY WILLIS**.<sup>[37]</sup>
- v. **HENRY PORTER**, b. 30 Aug. 1793, d. by 5 Oct. 1826.<sup>[38]</sup>
- 2 vi. **SIDNEY PORTER**, b. 29 Sep. 1795.
- vii. **MARIA PORTER**, b. 2 Jul. 1797, d. 10 Oct 1873, m. **SAMUEL BAYARD WOODWARD**.<sup>[39]</sup> Their children included a son, *Algernon S. Woodward* who died young.<sup>[40]</sup>
- viii. **ELEAZAR PORTER**, b. 26 Aug. 1799, d. 7 Jan. 1884, m. (1) **ELIZABETH** \_\_\_\_\_, m. (2) **MARTHA** \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>[41]</sup>
- ix. **HORACE PORTER**, b. 11 Jul. 1803, d. 21 Jan. 1834, m. **MARY MOORE CUNNINGHAM**.<sup>[42]</sup>

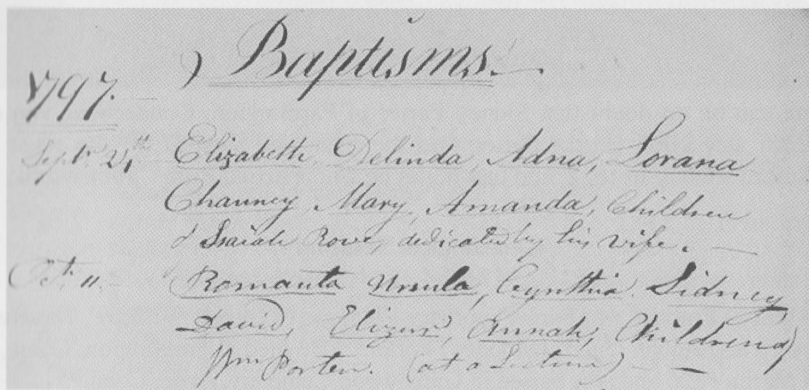
2. **SIDNEY PORTER**<sup>2</sup> was born at Hadley, Mass., 29 September 1795.<sup>[43]</sup> He died 24 December 1873 and was buried in Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, Conn.<sup>[44]</sup>

Sidney Porter married **Hannah Lane** at Sterling, Conn., 8 October 1829.<sup>[45]</sup> Hannah was born at Sturbridge, Mass., 13 January 1809, daughter of Rev. Otis and Elizabeth (Paine) Lane.<sup>[46]</sup> She died at Southbridge, Mass., 27 February 1895 and was buried there in Oak Ridge Cemetery.<sup>[47]</sup> They had no known children.

## Sidney Porter, of Farmington, Connecticut

Kathy Russell-Regan<sup>[48]</sup> grew up hearing from her father the story that her great-grandfather was a cousin to the author O. Henry. In December 2020, Kathy's father, Jack Arlen Russell, passed away and "in his storage was about 40 boxes, crates, and trunks." Kathy added, "The boxes have been in California for over 100 years. I was pretty blown away that I am 65 and just seeing this stuff for the first time." Among the contents were an old trunk, books, bibles, letters, photos, deeds, G.A.R. artifacts, family registers, a beautifully hand-drawn and framed family tree, and many other items dating from as early as the eighteenth century. There were also artifacts such as a teapot and baptismal cloth labeled with the names of their eighteenth century owners. Kathy had inherited a gold mine of family history with many of the items having belonged to members of the Porter family of Farmington, Connecticut.

One of the items Kathy Russell-Regan inherited was an old family register for the family of William and Sarah (Lusk) Porter listing the birth and death dates of their children.<sup>[49]</sup> Listed among the children of William and Sarah is Sidney Porter, born 2 February 1790, a date identical to that inscribed on the tombstone of Sidney Porter, husband of Ruth Coffin Worth.<sup>[50]</sup> Although no birth records have been found in the Farmington vital records for any of the children of William and Sarah, the discovery of this family register was crucial to finding the baptisms of seven of their children, including son Sidney. Certainly, the reason Sidney's baptism was not found previously is because the seven children were all baptized on the same date when Sidney was seven years old. The baptismal records for the Farmington First Congregational Church showed that Sidney Porter, and six of his siblings listed on the family register, were baptized there 11 October 1797.<sup>[51]</sup>

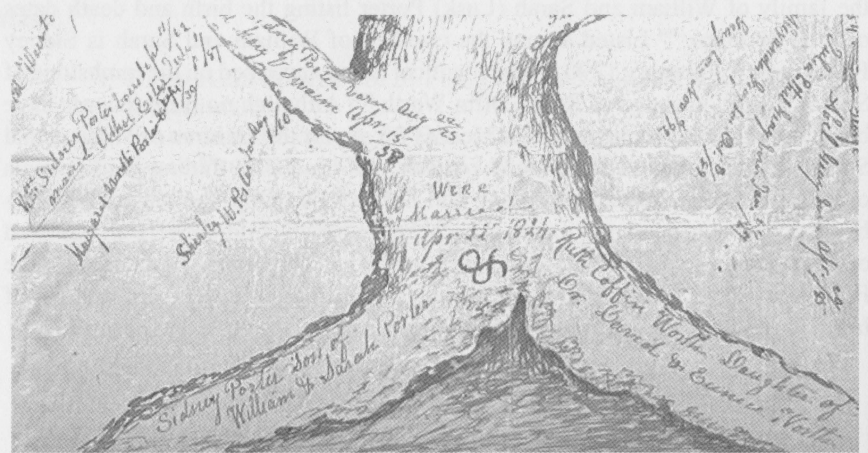


1797. Baptisms.

Sept. 25. Elizabeth, Delinda, Adna, Sorana  
Chauncey, Mary, Amanda, Children  
of Isaac Rowe, dedicated by his wife.

Oct. 11. Barnanta, Ursula, Cynthia, Sidney,  
David, Eliza, Annah, Children  
of Wm Porter. (at a Lecture)

Another item that Kathy Russell-Regan inherited was a family tree for the family of Sidney and Ruth Coffin (Worth) Porter, the grandparents of William Sydney Porter. The family tree consists of a framed, hand drawn tree that contains the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of “Sidney Porter, Son of William & Sarah Porter” and “Ruth Coffin Worth, Daughter of Dr. David & Eunice Worth.” Each child’s family is drawn as a tree limb branching out from the trunk with the grandchildren and great-grandchildren written as branches off the child’s limb. Although it does not give Sidney or Ruth’s birth or death dates, it does begin with their marriage date of 22 April 1824 written at the base of the trunk. It would appear the family tree was created after the 1824 marriage and updated with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren until about 1895 (great-grandchildren’s births). Among those listed is son Algernon Sidney Porter, his wife Mary V. Swaim, and grandson Wm. Sidney Porter, also known as O. Henry, with his first wife Athol Estes. William’s second wife, Sara Coleman, does not appear on the tree as he married her after the tree was no longer being updated.



There can be no doubt that Sidney Porter of Farmington, Connecticut, son of William and Sarah (Lusk) Porter, was the man who stepped off the stage at Guildford County in 1822, and that it was he who married Ruth Coffin Worth.

**Genealogical Summary**

1. **WILLIAM PORTER**<sup>5</sup> was born 4 February 1745, son of David<sup>4</sup> (*William*<sup>3</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>2</sup>, *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Annah (Judd) (Moodey) Porter.<sup>[52]</sup> He died at Farmington, Conn., 4 or 6 March 1826 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Avon, Conn.<sup>[53]</sup>

William Porter married at Farmington, 26 or 30 May 1776, **SARAH LUSK**.<sup>[54]</sup> She was born 24 November 1755, daughter of James and his first wife Sarah

(Paterson) Lusk.<sup>[55]</sup> Sarah died at Avon, 12 December 1833 and was buried there in Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>[56]</sup>

Children of William<sup>5</sup> and Sarah (Lusk) Porter; birth dates are all from family register; baptisms of children iii-v and vii-x at Farmington, 11 October 1797, baptism of xi there September 1800:<sup>[57]</sup>

- i. **ELIZUR PORTER**<sup>6</sup>, b. 2 Jul. 1777, d. 17 Mar. 1781.<sup>[58]</sup>
- ii. **EUNICE PORTER**, b. 27 Feb. 1779, d. 22 Feb. 1805.<sup>[59]</sup>
- iii. **ROMANTA PORTER**, b. 22 Dec. 1780, d. 29 Feb. 1872, m. **RACHEL WEBSTER**.<sup>[60]</sup>
- iv. **URSULA PORTER**, b. 9 Apr. 1783, d. 26 Sep. 1854.<sup>[61]</sup>
- v. **CYNTHIA PORTER**, b. 23 Apr. 1785, d. 13 Oct. 1881.<sup>[62]</sup>
- vi. **SIDNEY PORTER**, b. 5 Nov. 1787, d. 2 May 1789.<sup>[63]</sup>
- 2 vii. **SIDNEY PORTER**, b. 2 Feb. 1790.
- viii. **DAVID PORTER**, b. 18 Jun. 1792, d. 20 Jun. 1868.<sup>[64]</sup>
- ix. **ELIZUR PORTER**, b. 22 Oct. 1794, d. 14 Aug. 1874, m. **MARIA M. PORTER**.<sup>[65]</sup>
- x. **ANNAH/ANN L. PORTER**, b. 31 Jul. 1797, d. 14 Jan. 1876.<sup>[66]</sup>
- xi. **JOHN P. PORTER**, b. 24 Feb. 1800, d. 3 Mar. 1870, m. **Laura Caroline Prentiss**.<sup>[67]</sup>

2. **SIDNEY PORTER**<sup>6</sup> was born 2 Feb. 1790 and baptized with six siblings at Farmington, Conn., 11 Oct. 1797.<sup>[68]</sup> He died at Greensboro, N.C., 8 Feb. 1848 and is buried there in the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery.<sup>[69]</sup>

Sidney Porter married at Centre Community, N.C., 22 April 1824, **Ruth Coffin Worth**.<sup>[70]</sup> She was born there 3 June 1805, daughter of Dr. David and Eunice (Gardner) Worth.<sup>[71]</sup> Ruth died at Greensboro, 17 August 1890 and was buried there in the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery.<sup>[72]</sup>

Children of Sidney<sup>6</sup> and Ruth Coffin (Worth) Porter<sup>[73]</sup>:

- i. *Algernon Sidney Porter*<sup>7</sup>, b. 22 Aug. 1825, d. 20 Sep. 1889, m. *Mary Jane Virginia Swaim*.<sup>[74]</sup> Their children included the short story author William Sydney Porter (aka O. Henry).
- ii. *David Worth Porter*, b. 22 Sep. 1827, d. 6 Feb. 1882, m. *Frances Walker*.<sup>[75]</sup>
- iii. *EMILY ROSALINE PORTER*, b. 21 Jul. 1829, d. 15 Jul. 1863, m. *Jabez F. Newlin*.<sup>[76]</sup>
- iv. *JOHN PORTER*, b. 27 Dec. 1830, d. 27 Dec. 1830.<sup>[77]</sup>
- v. *Evelina Maria Porter*, b. 1 Apr. 1832, d. 28 May 1897.<sup>[78]</sup>
- vi. *William Clarkson Porter*, b. 13 Sep. 1834, d. 5 Apr. 1902, m. *Sarah Roberta "Berta" Sloan*.<sup>[79]</sup>
- vii. *Oscar Lusk Porter*, b. 2 Jan. 1837, d. 26 Jul. 1838.<sup>[80]</sup>

- viii. Charles Edward Porter, b. 25 May 1839, d. 25 Jun. 1865.<sup>[81]</sup>  
ix. Henry Milton Porter, b. 29 Apr. 1842, d. 26 May 1867.<sup>[82]</sup>

The author wishes to acknowledge Kathy Russell-Regan (russell-regan@live.com) for sharing the wonderful family history left to her and her brother, Robert Russell, by their late father Jack Arlen Russell.

**Editor's Note:** "Three Generations of Family Registers for the Porter Family of Farmington, Connecticut," also submitted by Richard Hall, may be found beginning on page 17 of this issue of *The Connecticut Nutmegger*.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Richard Hall, richhall@famouskin.com, is a frequent contributor of articles to the *Mayflower Descendant*. He has also written for *American Ancestors* and made significant contributions to Gary Boyd Roberts's 2020 publication *The Mayflower 500*. He is the founder of FamousKin.com.
- <sup>2</sup> "Address of Dr. Archibald Henderson, of the University Faculty, in presenting, on behalf of the family, to the Supreme Court, a portrait of the late Judge Nathaniel Boyden, at one time a member of that body," 28 January 1874, *North Carolina Digital Collections*, online at [digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/pl6062coll29/id/249](https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/pl6062coll29/id/249). Nathaniel Boyden was a fellow passenger on the stage with Sidney Porter.
- <sup>3</sup> *North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-1979*, Guilford County, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 102170506, image 853 and FHL 4263752, image 385]. *North-Carolina Free Press* (Halifax, N.C.), 14 May 1824, p. 3.
- <sup>4</sup> *Daily State Chronicle* (Raleigh, N.C.), 20 Aug. 1890, p. 5, obituary for Mrs. Ruth Porter, "sister of the late Governor Jonathan Worth."
- <sup>5</sup> See Genealogical Summary for Sidney Porter of Farmington.
- <sup>6</sup> William Sydney Porter was originally spelled William Sidney Porter. Richard Hall, "Descendants of Ruth Coffin (Worth) Porter of Guilford County, North Carolina: A John Howland Descendant," *Mayflower Descendant*, 70(Summer 2022):166-167.
- <sup>7</sup> Gary Boyd Roberts and William Addams Reitwiesner, *American Ancestors and Cousins of The Princess of Wales: The New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Virginia Forebears, Near Relatives, and Notable Distant Kinsmen, Through Her American Great-Grandmother, of Lady Diana Frances Spencer, Now Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1984).
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 52.
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* Roberts and Reitwiesner gave his name as Eleazer Williams Porter. This article refers to him as Eleazar Porter Jr. The spelling for his given name Eleazar comes from his tombstone, marriage bann, marriage record, and chil-

dren's birth records. This spelling is also used by his son Eleazar. The middle name of Williams is dropped because no evidence, besides published genealogies, was found to support it. Perhaps it was a result of combining the given names of the fathers of the two Sidney Porters to reconcile issues regarding the identification of them as the same man. The given names of the two fathers were Eleazar and William. Eleazar is referred to as a "Junr" in the Hadley vital record's listing for his children's births.

- <sup>10</sup> Ethel Stephens Arnett, *From England to North Carolina: Two Special Gifts* (New Bern, N.C.: The Tryon Palace Restoration, 1964), 84-85.
- <sup>11</sup> *Hadley Massachusetts Vital Records*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4000350, image 76]. *Connecticut Courant* (Hartford, Conn.), 19 July 1815, p. 3, marriage record of Samuel Woodward and Maria Porter names her father. FindaGrave.com, memorial #82444335, photograde of gravestone of Algernon Woodard at Bridge Street Cemetery, Northampton, Mass.
- <sup>12</sup> *Hadley Massachusetts Vital Records*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4000350, image 182].
- <sup>13</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #28836302, photograph of gravestone at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C.
- <sup>14</sup> Henry Porter Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter of Windsor, Conn., 1635-9*, 2 vols. (Saratoga Springs: G. W. Ball, Book and Job Printer, 1893), 1:352, gives Sidney's wife as Harriett Lane. H. D. Paine, *Paine Family Records: A Journal of Genealogical and Biographical information respecting the American Families of Payne, Paine, Payn, &c.*, 2 vols. in 1 (New York: n. p., 1880-1883), 1:126, gives Sidney's wife as Hannah Lane.
- <sup>15</sup> At the time of this writing, some major internet sites containing the incorrect parentage include, but are not limited to, FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, Geni.com, FindaGrave.com, Wikitree.com, and Wargs.com.
- <sup>16</sup> *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records*, citing Sterling, 1:213. *Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Conn.), 27 October 1829, p. 3, Sidney Porter was said to be of Fredericksburg, Va., at the time of their marriage. Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352. Paine, *Paine Family Records*, 1:126.
- <sup>17</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Sturbridge, Worcester Co., Mass., NARA M653-530, p. 906, dwelling 1819, family 2112. 1865 *Massachusetts State Census*, Sturbridge, Worcester Co., dwelling 294, family 322. Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter* 1:352, identifies David Keyes and Mary (Ingraham) Porter as the brother and sister-in-law of Sidney Porter.
- <sup>18</sup> *Massachusetts Deaths, 1841-1915* [FHL #4162389, Image 346], Sturbridge, 1868, death record for David K. Porter.
- <sup>19</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, Sturbridge, Worcester Co., Mass., NARA M593-656, p. 25B, dwelling 44, family 48.
- <sup>20</sup> Paine, *Paine Family Records*, 1:126. 1870 U.S. Census, Walton, Eaton Co., Mich., NARA M593-656, p. 25B, dwelling 1, family 1. *U.S., School*

*Catalogs, 1765-1935, Circular and Catalogue of Olivet College, 1870-1877, Ancestry.com.*

- <sup>21</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #93929462, photograph of gravestone at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge, Mass.
- <sup>22</sup> *Worcester County, Mass.: Probate File Papers, 1731-1881*, AmericanAncestors.org, Case No. 47398, probate file for estate of Sidney Porter, Administrator's Petition dated 15 January 1874.
- <sup>23</sup> See Genealogical Summary.
- <sup>24</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #63650219, photograph of gravestone at Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, Conn.
- <sup>25</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #63649649, photograph of gravestone at Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, Conn.
- <sup>26</sup> *Hadley, Massachusetts, Vital Records*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4000350, image 182].
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid., "Births in the Family of Eleazar Porter Junr." FindaGrave.com, memorial #63650219, photograph of gravestone at Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, Conn., (Sidney). FindaGrave.com, memorial #63649649, photograph of gravestone at Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, Conn., (Eleazar).
- <sup>28</sup> *Hadley, Massachusetts, Vital Records*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4000350, image 180], "Births in the Family of Eleazar Porter." Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 351-352. *Northampton, Massachusetts, Vital Records*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4329300, image 157], marriage record for Eleazer Porter and Susanna Edwards.
- <sup>29</sup> *Massachusetts Deaths, 1841-1915*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4219402, image 715], Sturbridge, 1849, death record for Eleazar Porter. FindaGrave.com, memorial #133446347, photograph of gravestone at North Cemetery, Sturbridge, Mass.
- <sup>30</sup> *Hadley, Massachusetts, Vital Records*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4000350, image 162], marriage. *Hadley, Massachusetts, Vital Records* [FHL #4000350, image 198], marriage bann, 22 December 1782.
- <sup>31</sup> *Vital Records of Warren, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: F.P. Rice, 1910), 43, birth record for Sarah Keyes, daughter of David and Submit Keyes; *Vital Records of Warren*, 1:117, marriage intention for David Keyes and Submit Belding identifying mother's maiden name.
- <sup>32</sup> *Sturbridge, Massachusetts, Vital Records, 1734-1861*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 7009532, image 83]. FindaGrave.com, memorial #133446354, photograph of gravestone at North Cemetery, Sturbridge, Mass.
- <sup>33</sup> *Hadley, Massachusetts, Vital Records*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4000350, image 182], "Births in the Family of Eleazar Porter Junr.;" birth dates listed are from this source. *Hadley, Massachusetts, Vital Records*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4000350, image 239], birth of Horace Porter. Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352, gives list of children and

spouses, but birth dates mostly disagree with Hadley Vital Records.

<sup>34</sup> *Sturbridge, Massachusetts, Vital Records, 1860-1905*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 7009805, image 167], death. *Records of the Congregational Church in Suffield, Conn. (Except Church Votes), 1710-1836*, 155, marriage record for David K. Porter and Mary Ingraham. *Worcester County, Mass.: Probate File Papers, 1731-1881*, online at AmericanAncestors.org, Case No. 47367; will of David K. Porter, dated 22 May 1866, mentions "my beloved wife Mary I. Porter." Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352, gives David's birth date as 21 February 1784.

<sup>35</sup> *Sturbridge, Massachusetts, Vital Records, 1734-1861*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 7009532, image 7], death. Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352.

<sup>36</sup> *Roxbury, Massachusetts, Vital Records, 1630-1867*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4277217, image 255], death record for Sarah P. Pettes, wife of Samuel, at Richmond, Va. *Connecticut Herald* (New Haven, Conn.), 24 October 1809 (marriage), "At Hartford." Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352, gives Sarah's birth date as 18 April 1788.

<sup>37</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #6548539, photograph of Gravestone at Oak Grove Cemetery, Lexington, Va., (Edwin). *Columbian Register* (New Haven, Conn.), 30 September 1865, obituary for Edwin Porter, died at Lexington, Va. *Connecticut Herald* (New Haven, Conn.), 7 November 1815, obituary for Mehitable Porter, "wife of Mr. Edwin P. and daughter of Mr. Samuel Hughes. FindaGrave.com, memorial #135864524, photograph of gravestone at Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven, Conn., (Mehitable). *Connecticut Mirror* (Hartford, Conn.), 7 December 1818, marriage of Edwin Porter and Mary Willis. *Richmond Whig and Public Advertiser* (Richmond, Va.), 31 October 1848, obituary for Mary W. Porter, consort of Edwin Porter. Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352, gives Edwin's birth date as 12 June 1790.

<sup>38</sup> *Connecticut, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999*, online at Ancestry.com, Hartford, Conn., 1826, probate record for estate of Henry Porter dated 5 October 1826. *Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Conn.), 9 October 1826, death notice for Henry Porter, 33, son of Eleazar Porter. Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352, gives Henry's birth date as 1 September 1792.

<sup>39</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #82444274, photograph of gravestone at Bridge Street Cemetery, Northampton, Mass. *Connecticut Courant* (Hartford, Conn.), 19 July 1815, p. 3, marriage of "Samuel B. Woodward, of Wethersfield, to Miss Maria Porter, daughter of Maj. Eleazar Porter." Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352, gives Maria's birth date as 12 July 1797.

<sup>40</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #82444335, photograph of Gravestone at Bridge Street Cemetery, Northampton, Mass.

<sup>41</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #63649649, photograph of gravestone at Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, Conn., (Eleazar). Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352, gives Eleazar's birth date as 18 August 1799. *New*

York, New York, U.S., *Index to Death Certificates, 1862-1948*, online at Ancestry.com, 1900, Certificate No. 1740; death record for Louise (Louisa) Porter gives her parents' names as Eleazar and Elizabeth Porter. 1850 U.S. Census, New York City, Ward 17, New York Co., N.Y., NARA M432-556, p. 357a, dwelling 864, family 2985, second wife Martha known due to enumerator identified wives with a "W" preceding their names. FindaGrave.com, memorial #63649623, photograph of gravestone at Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, Conn., photograph at (Louisa).

- <sup>42</sup> Mountauburn.org, see RememberMyJourney.com/search/cemetery/325/map, photograph of gravestone at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass., Lot 477, Grave GUS. *Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988*, online at Ancestry.com, Boston Deaths and Interments, 1834 (death). *Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988*, online at Ancestry.com, Boston Marriages, 1832 (marriage). FindaGrave.com, memorial #166761054, photograph of gravestone at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass.; Horace is buried near his wife in the Cunningham plot (Lot #477). Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352.
- <sup>43</sup> Hadley, *Massachusetts, Vital Records*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4000350, image 182] gives Sidney's birth date as 29 Sept. 1795. FindaGrave.com, memorial #63650219, photograph of gravestone at Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, Conn., Sidney's birth date inscribed as 29 Sept. 1795. Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352, gives Sidney's birth date as 10 Feb. 1795. *Phelps Diary, 1795-1817*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 7579200, image 8]; Mrs. Elizabeth (Porter) Phelps kept a list of birth and deaths in Hadley from 1795 until 1817. She lists Sidney's birth in 1795, but without a birth date. The preceding entry in the listing is for Worthington Smith, born 11 October 1795, which is often given incorrectly as Sidney Porter's birth date.
- <sup>44</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #63650219, photograph of gravestone at Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, Conn. As of this writing, the memorial incorrectly states that Sidney Porter is the spouse of his brother Eleazar Porter.
- <sup>45</sup> *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records*, citing Sterling, 1:213. *Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Conn.), 27 October 1829, p. 3. Sidney Porter was said to be of Fredericksburg, Va., at the time of their marriage. Paine, *Paine Family Records*, 1:126. Andrews, *The Descendants of John Porter*, 1:352, gives Hannah's name as Harriett.
- <sup>46</sup> *Sturbridge, Massachusetts, Vital Records, 1734-1861*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 7009532, image 56], gives Hannah's birth date as 13 Jan. 1809. Paine, *Paine Family Records*, 1:126, gives Hannah's birth date as 9 Jan. 1809.
- <sup>47</sup> *Massachusetts, Vital Records, 1841-1910*, online at AmericanAncestors.org, Southbridge, 456:690, death record names spouse and parents. FindaGrave.com, memorial # 93929462, photograph of gravestone at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge, Mass.

- <sup>48</sup> Kathy Russell-Regan and William Sydney Porter (aka O. Henry) are second cousins, four times removed through William and Sarah (Lusk) Porter. Kathy is the daughter of Jack Arlen Russell, son of Sylvia C. Porter, daughter of Edward Youngs Porter, son of Alpheus Gordon Porter, son of Wales Smith Porter, son of Romanta Porter, son of William and Sarah (Lusk) Porter.
- <sup>49</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk currently in the possession of Kathy Russell-Regan.
- <sup>50</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #28836302, photograph of gravestone at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C.
- <sup>51</sup> *Farmington First Congregational Church Records*, 4:54, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4199687, image 332].
- <sup>52</sup> William Porter, husband of Sarah Lusk, sold land in Farmington on 1 Feb. 1802 to Benjamin Belden of Bristol, Conn., that was described as William's "proportion thereof which is owned by Hon[ore]d. Mother Annah Lewis ..." (Farmington Deeds, 34:489 [FHL 8465902, image 599]). Annah (Judd) (Moody) (Porter) Lewis, wife of Ebenezer Moody, David Porter, and Ezekiel Lewis, was born at Farmington 15 Oct. 1712, daughter of Samuel and Anne (\_\_\_\_) (Hart) Judd, Barbour, Farmington Vital Records, LR2:98, (Ann's birth), LR:13 (14 Oct. 1731 marriage of Ebenezer Moodey and Anne Judd), LR7:46 (26 July 1744 marriage of David Porter and wid. Anna Moodey), LR 11:576 (9 March 1758 marriage of Ezekiel Lewis and wid. Annah Porter).
- <sup>53</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk gives death date as March 1826. FindaGrave.com, memorial #82986616, photograph of gravestone at Greenwood Cemetery, Avon, Conn., gives death date as 6 March 1826. *West Avon Congregational Church Records, 1751-1941*, 3:130, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 8137283, image 188], gives death date as 4 March 1826.
- <sup>54</sup> *Farmington First Congregational Church Records*, 3:15, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4199687, image 266]; marriage of Will'm Porter and Sarah Lusk gives date as 30 May 1776. Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk gives marriage date as 26 May 1776.
- <sup>55</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk. *Connecticut, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999*, online at Ancestry.com, Farmington Probate District, Case No. 1842; probate file for estate of James Lusk identifies daughter Sarah Porter. *Chauncey Lusk Papers, 1793-1858*, 144, available at Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, Sturbridge, Mass., 1966, genealogical sketch of James Lusk family.
- <sup>56</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk gives death year incorrectly as 1832. FindaGrave.com, memorial #82986617, photograph of gravestone at Greenwood Cemetery, Avon, Conn. *West Avon Congregational Church Records, 1751-1941*, 3:169, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 8137283, image 208], death record for Mrs. Porter. Charles R. Hale Collection of Newspaper

- Deaths and Cemetery Inscriptions, Connecticut State Library, *Connecticut Observer*, 13 Jan. 1834, [no page no.], death of Sarah (Widow) Porter.
- <sup>57</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk gives birth and most death dates for children. *Farmington First Congregational Church Records*, 4:54, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4199687, image 332], baptism of Romanta, Ursula, Cynthia, Sidney, David, Elizur, Annah, children of Wm. Porter, [image 333], baptism of a child of Wm. Porter.
- <sup>58</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth, death). FindaGrave.com, memorial #112165756, photograph of gravestone at Greenwood Cemetery, Avon, Conn.
- <sup>59</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth, death).
- <sup>60</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth, death). Findagrave.com, memorial #44542759, photograph of gravestone at Riverside Cemetery, Farmington, Conn. Family Register for Romanta Porter and Rachel Webster currently in the possession of the Farmington Historical Society, sampler wrought by daughter Cornelia Porter at West Avon, Conn., July 1834, incorrect death year of 1874 was added to the sampler for Romanta Porter. The correct year is 1872.
- <sup>61</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth). FindaGrave.com, memorial #82986619, photograph of gravestone at Greenwood Cemetery, Avon, Conn.
- <sup>62</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth, death). FindaGrave.com, memorial #38610122, photograph of gravestone at Greenwood Cemetery, Avon, Conn.
- <sup>63</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth, death). FindaGrave.com, memorial #139573634, photograph of gravestone at Greenwood Cemetery, Avon, Conn.
- <sup>64</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth, death).
- <sup>65</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth, death). *Hartford Marriages, Births and Deaths, 1797-1855*, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 7616353, image 145], marriage. Charles H. Farnam, *History of the Descendants of John Whitman of Weymouth, Mass.* (New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, Printers, 1889), 513.
- <sup>66</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth, death). FindaGrave.com, memorial #38610133, photograph of gravestone at Greenwood Cemetery, Avon, Conn.
- <sup>67</sup> Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth, death), incorrectly gives John Porter's death year as 1875. Charles R. Hale Collection of Newspaper Deaths and Cemetery Inscriptions, Connecticut State Library, 607-1 Center Cemetery, 29. *Columbian Register* (New Haven, Conn.), 19 March 1870, obituary for John B. [sic] Porter. Rev. A. G. Hibbard, *Marriages in Goshen, Connecticut* (Lambertville, New Jersey: Hunterdon House, 1984), 41. Rev. A. G. Hibbard, *History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut* (Hartford,

- Conn.: Press of The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1897), 465.
- <sup>68</sup> Hall, "Descendants of Ruth Coffin (Worth) Porter," 166-167. Family register for William Porter and Sarah Lusk (birth). *Farmington First Congregational Church Records*, 4:54, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 4199687, image 332], baptisms of Romanta, Ursula, Cynthia, Sidney, David, Elizur, Annah, children of Wm. Porter.
- <sup>69</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #28836302, photograph of gravestone at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C.
- <sup>70</sup> Hall, "Descendants of Ruth Coffin (Worth) Porter," 166-167. *North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-1979*, Guilford County, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 102170506, image 853 and FHL 4263752, image 385]. *North-Carolina Free Press* (Halifax, N.C.), 14 May 1824, p. 3 (marriage). Gary Boyd Roberts, *The Mayflower 500: Five Hundred Notable Descendants of the Founding Families on the Mayflower* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2020), 206.
- <sup>71</sup> Hall, "Descendants of Ruth Coffin (Worth) Porter," 166-167. FindaGrave.com, memorial #28834879, photograph of gravestone at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C., inscription includes birthdate.
- <sup>72</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #28834879, photograph of gravestone at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C.
- <sup>73</sup> Hall, "Descendants of Ruth Coffin (Worth) Porter," 166-167.
- <sup>74</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #28834813, photograph of gravestone at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C. *North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-1979*, Greensboro, Guilford County, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 102170506, image 850]. Roberts, *The Mayflower 500*, 206. C. Alphonso Smith, *O. Henry: A Biography* (London, Toronto, New York: Hodder and Stoughton, 1916), 25-26.
- <sup>75</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #28834813, photograph of gravestone at Asheboro City Cemetery, Asheboro, N.C. *The Biblical Recorder* (Raleigh, N.C.), 15 February 1882, p. 3 (death). *The North-Carolinian* (Fayetteville, N.C.), 29 November 1851, p. 3 (marriage).
- <sup>76</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #104226545, photograph of gravestone at Marlboro Friends Meeting Cemetery, Sophia, N.C.; tombstone inscription is illegible in photo, but verified by photographer Elizabeth Dix as Emily P. Newlin in caption. *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N.C.), 30 July 1863, p. 3 (death). *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N.C.), 4 April 1856, p. 3 (marriage).
- <sup>77</sup> No gravestone found for John Porter.
- <sup>78</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #22660653, photograph of gravestone at Mill Creek Cemetery, Columbia, S.C.
- <sup>79</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #17598264, photograph of gravestone at Green Hill Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C. *North Carolina, County Marriages*,

1762-1779, Greensboro, Guilford County, online at FamilySearch.org [FHL 102170509, image 411].

<sup>80</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #28834869, photograph of gravestone at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C.

<sup>81</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #28834822, photograph of gravestone at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C.

<sup>82</sup> FindaGrave.com, memorial #28834828, photograph of gravestone at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C.