

in the war for independence. Joseph and Eliza Porter became the parents of five sons and two daughters, of whom two are now living: Joseph E. and a sister, Sarah E., now the wife of Henry Moffett, of Ransom, Illinois.

Joseph E. Porter, the only living male representative of this family, was born in Brown county, Ohio, May 1, 1831, and has lived in Ottawa for the past forty-five years. On the 22d of March, 1860, he married Miss Margaret Hossack, daughter of John Hossack, who was the eldest son of John and Margaret (Forsythe) Hossack. He was born in Elgin, Scotland, December 6, 1806, and went to Canada when twelve years of age. His wife, Martha Hossack, was the eldest daughter of Cord Lens, who was born in Germany, in 1786, his wife being Ann Lens, who was born December 4, 1786, and was a daughter of William and Ann Gilly, nee Banks, of England. Mr. and Mrs. Lens were married in England in 1810, but soon afterward removed to Scotland, where Martha was born, November 28, 1813. In 1818 they emigrated with their family to Quebec. Mr. and Mrs. Hossack were married in Quebec, Canada, in 1833; in 1838 removed to Chicago, and in 1849 took up their abode in Ottawa, where Mr. Hossack engaged in merchandising, dealing in lumber and grain. He purchased the latter commodity from the farmers and shipped it by rail to Chicago.

There were born to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Porter, eight children: Elizabeth, born March 7, 1861, married William F. Jacobs, February 18, 1890; Jessie F., born November 16, 1862, married George W. Yentzer, November 15, 1888; Lincoln Ewing, born February 26, 1865, married Anne Combs, May 23, 1889; Annie L., born June 5, 1867, married Arthur S. Hook, June 10, 1892; Josephine, born April 30, 1870, married Charles P. Taylor, October 31, 1894 (all the above mentioned now living in Ottawa, Illinois); John H., born January 4, 1873, and now living at Buffalo, New York; Louise C., born July 14, 1876, still at home; and Sidney S., born September 18, 1880, is at school.

It was in the fall of 1852 that Joseph Porter came from Ohio to Ottawa. He was first employed as a clerk by J. G. Nattinger, who was at that time one of the leading merchants of the city, but Mr. Porter did not see a favorable outlook for a clerkship, and being of an inventive turn of mind, he gave his attention first to the study of the daguerreotype art in 1854, and was one of the first inventors of photography. This he followed for a number of years. Visiting his father's farm during the fall of 1856, he was called upon to assist in storing away the hay, the work at that time being done by the common pitchforks and manual labor. Thinking that better methods could be secured he at once entered upon the work of inventing an easier way for storing hay, and as a result produced the famous Porter Hay Carrier, which has gained for him a national reputation as an inventor