

John H. Porter is a retired merchant of Montezuma and the vice president of the First National Bank. While he has won success in business it is his personal characteristics that have endeared him to his fellowmen. Especially is he prominent and popular in the Grand Army of the Republic, and he may well be proud of the fact that for thirty years he has been chosen the color bearer of his post.

He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, April 29, 1841, and was therefore but a lad of thirteen years when, in November, 1854, he arrived in Montezuma with his parents, Alexander and Catharine (Ralston) Porter. The father was born in Ireland in 1807 and the mother in Virginia. Alexander Porter came to the United States with his parents when seven years of age and located in that portion of Virginia which is now the Panhandle of West Virginia. There he was reared and married and later he became a pioneer in the forests of Ohio, entering land from the government and residing in that state until he came to Iowa. For a few years he lived in Montezuma and then took up his abode in Pleasant township, where for a long period he carried on general agricultural pursuits. In later years, however, he retired from business and again became a resident of Montezuma, where he died January 14, 1899, when eighty-two years of age. His wife died February 14, 1879. In their family were eleven children, of whom one died in infancy. The others were: Henrietta, of Montezuma; Scott T., deceased; Eliza J., who passed away in 1858; James L., of Ohio, who served for three years in the Civil war as a soldier in the Fifty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry; Mary A., who wedded George Buras, of Des Moines; John H., of this review; Joseph M., of Pleasant township; Johnson A., residing at Grinnell; S. J., also of that city; and C. C., of Des Moines.

The usual experiences of farm life came to John H. Porter in his boyhood and youth, and his educational advantages were those afforded by the public schools of his native and his adopted state. He remained with his father until his enlistment for service in the Civil war on the 2d of August, 1862, as a member of Company C, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He served

for three years, or until the close of the war, and was mustered out with his regiment at Savannah, Georgia, July 31, 1865, having in the meantime participated in a number of hotly contested engagements in which his bravery and his determination were many times proven.

Following the cessation of hostilities Mr. Porter engaged in farming in Pleasant township from 1865 until 1872, and following his removal to Montezuma in the latter year was engaged in the hardware business with A. F. Rayburn under the firm style of Rayburn & Porter for a quarter of a century. He made for himself a creditable place among merchants in this city as the methods he pursued were always straightforward and honorable, and he put forth earnest efforts to please his patrons. While now living retired from close connection with active business affairs he is the vice president of the First National Bank of Montezuma, in which he owns considerable stock, and his property holdings include ninety acres of valuable land in Jackson township adjoining the corporation limits of Montezuma on the north, together with an attractive residence and business property in this city.

In 1869 Mr. Porter was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Rayburn, who was born in Highland county, Ohio, and in 1879, at the age of forty-one years, was called to her final rest. She was a daughter of John K. Rayburn, and by her marriage became the mother of five children, as follows: Gertrude, the wife of W. L. Meredith, of Montezuma; Mary, who passed away in infancy; Raymond A., of Idaho; Alice, who also died in infancy; and Albert L., operating his father's farm. After the death of his first wife, in 1887, Mr. Porter was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Alicia McMillien. She was born in Harnedsville, Somerset county, Pennsylvania, on the 16th of September, 1850, and in 1865, when a maiden of fifteen summers, came with her parents to Iowa. She is a daughter of John Harned and a granddaughter of Samuel Harned, in honor of whom the town of Harnedsville was named.

In his political views Mr. Porter has long been a stalwart republican, giving to the party untrailing support. For twelve years he served as a member of the city council and did effective work in behalf of public progress and improvement. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Grand Army of the Republic, and since the organization of the local post has served as its color bearer. He has strong and deep attachment for the starry banner and is as true and loyal to his country in days of peace as when he followed the old flag upon the battlefields of the south.

The Grinnell Herald

OFFICIAL PAPER OF POWESHIEK COUNTY

RAY & FRISBIE
PUBLISHERS

Person Advertisers Representative
OF THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1921.

JOHN H. PORTER

(From The Montezuma Palladium)

John H. Porter, a veteran of the civil war and for more than sixty-six years a resident of Montezuma, passed away last Thursday afternoon after a long illness.

In the passing of Mr. Porter Montezuma has lost one who had spent most of his life in this community, had shared in its prosperity, had suffered in its woe and through it all was an honored and upright citizen.

Coming here in his early boyhood and when this community was on the border of civilization they grew up together as it might be said. Both endured the privations of those early days and both prospered through those trials.

When the dark clouds of the civil war spread over the land Mr. Porter along with his companions of the town and country laid aside all thought of home and friends and gladly went forth to battle for the flag and for the right. He joined Co. C, 28th Iowa, under the leadership of Capt. J. W. Carr, and the story of life in those dark days is a kindly remembrance among his comrades and relatives.

His life in the community was an open book and he won and held the esteem of all our citizens. For long years he was actively identified with the business affairs of the community and by was ever an advocate of all measures which were for the good of the town and its people.

He is gone from among us but the memory of his life will live long among those who knew him best.

The funeral was held in the M. E. church last Saturday afternoon at one o'clock. The church was filled with a great crowd of sorrowing relatives and friends. Rev. Lansing conducted the service. Wisner Post, No. 127, G. A. R., of which the deceased had long been an influential member, was present and at the grave gave the burial service. Wisner Circle Ladies and the S. O. V. also attended in a body.

JOHN H. PORTER was born in Carroll county, Ohio, April 29, 1841, and died January 6, 1921, aged 79 years, 8 months and 8 days. When a lad he came with his parents to Montezuma in 1854, attending school here. Among his teachers was Judge W. R. Lewis to whom he was greatly attached.

In 1862 he entered in Co. C, 28th Iowa Infantry. He laid his life on the altar of his country and happily God spared him to his family. His war record was a splendid one. He was with his regiment all through the war, was in every battle but one and then he was sick. He was discharged July 31, 1865.

He was married to Miss Mary J. Rayburn in January, 1869. To this union five children were born: Mrs. Gertrude R. Meredith of this city, Raymond A. Porter of Los Angeles, California, and Albert L. Porter of this city. Two daughters died in infancy. His wife, Mary J. Rayburn, passed from this life in December, 1879. In October, 1887, he was united in marriage to Alice H. McMillen of this city, who survives him and who has been his constant loving and ever faithful companion since their marriage.

In 1873 he engaged in the hardware and other business with A. P. Rayburn. They were successful merchants and business men in Montezuma for forty years, until the death of A. P. Rayburn in 1912. Mr. Porter was associated with the First National bank of Montezuma since its organization in 1882, filling the office of president for several years. As a director and adviser in the bank he was honest, conscientious, as he was elsewhere, and everywhere he sought peace and observance of law and order.

He was a prominent member of Wisner Post, No. 127, G. A. R., and was always seen to all their marches at their head, carrying their flag which he continued to do until his health failed.

He was a prominent member of the Odd Fellows lodge of this city and is one of the oldest Odd Fellows in membership in this organization.

He was apparently in good health until about two or three years ago when he began to fall.

The immediate family have the sympathy of a great multitude of people in Montezuma and elsewhere who will be glad to do anything to help lighten the weight and grief that bears upon them so heavily.

Besides his wife, daughter and two sons, Mr. Porter is survived by a sister, Henrietta Porter of Montezuma, and three brothers, J. M. Porter of

Evart, Johnson and Sampson Porter of Grinnell, and many nephews, nieces and a large circle of new friends who mourn his passing.

PORTER, John H., b. in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1841 and came to Iowa in 1854, with his parents, Alexander and Catherine (Ralston) Porter. The father was b. in Ireland in 1807 and the mother in Virginia. Alexander Porter came to the U. S. with his parents when seven years old and located in that portion of Virginia which is now the panhandle of West Virginia.
Pop. 2 p. 357