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## Porter Family (MSS 15)

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### Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Porter Family (MSS 15)" (2007). *Manuscript Collection Finding Aids*. Paper 251.

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
Department of Library Special Collections  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 15 PORTER Family Papers**

2 boxes. 11 folders. 233 items. 1781-1957. Originals, typescripts.

1947.7.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

The collector of these papers, John Alexander Porter (1863-1928), was born in Butler County, Kentucky, to Francis A. (1827-1877) and Mary Ann (Alexander) Porter (1835-1894). In 1888, he moved to Paris, Texas, and worked in the gas, streetcar, and light businesses for several years. Porter served as a teacher and elder in the Presbyterian Church in the different locations in which he lived and had an interest in various religious organizations.

In 1913 he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was employed as an electrical engineer for various public utilities in the Mississippi Valley; was vice president of the St. Louis Public Utilities Corporation; and was a member of the St. Louis firm of Kelso-Wurdack Utilities.

Porter retired in 1926 and moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to live with his sisters, Carrie and Frances Porter. He did extensive work in preparing a Porter family genealogical manuscript, but Porter died before the publication of his work was done.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection contains mostly typescript genealogical material compiled for the purpose of publishing a book about the Porter family. Other family genealogies include Beard, Carson, Chapman, Hail, Helm, Moody, and Sloss, with many associated families mentioned. There is a typescript historical sketch of the Porter family written in 1872 by John M. Porter of Bowling Green, Kentucky, as well as a typed copy of his Civil War experiences.

The correspondence dating from 1906 to 1957 is of a genealogical nature. Other items include deeds dating from 1799 to 1857 and that pertain chiefly to the Porter family's activities in the Kentucky counties of Butler and Logan.

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Porter Family Papers</b>	<b>1781-1957</b>	<b>211 items</b>
Folder 1	Genealogical materials	1896-1946	51 items
	1a - Correspondence of John A. Porter from W. B. Conkey Co. regarding estimates of cost of Porter Record	1926-1928	9 items
	1b - Olive Swann Porter's record of the Porter families		4 items
Folder 2	Civil War record of John M. Porter	1872	2 items
Folder 3	Historical sketch of Porter family	1872	1 item
Folder 4	General index to proposed genealogical book	n.d.	3 items
Folder 5	Porter, John A. – Correspondence	1909-1928	40 items
	5a - Porter & Reedy - Correspondence	1928	6 items
	5b - Porter & Katie Barnett - Correspondence	1927-1928	4 items
	5c - Misses Carrie & Frances Porter - Correspondence	1906-1957	7 items
Folder 6	Photostats – Rejected claim papers; Will of John Porter	1781	16 items
Folder 7	Deed – Livingston County	1822	1 item
Folder 8	Legal papers – Deeds, surveys, etc.– Logan County	1799-1856	13 items
Folder 9	Legal papers – Deeds, surveys, etc. – Butler County	1812-1857	32 items
Folder 10	Miscellaneous legal papers	n.d.	6 items
Folder 11	Clippings, etc.	n.d.	12 items
	11a - Clippings sent to John A. Porter by Ella Kuykendall	n.d.	4 items

**BOX 2      Genealogical Records**

9 notebooks, 13 packets

***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS   PORTER Family Papers                              1781-1957

15

Genealogical material (typed copy) collected by John A. Porter for a book, and related correspondence, 1906-1957. Legal papers of Butler (32), Livingston (1), and Logan (13) counties in Kentucky; deeds, surveys, etc., 1799-1857. Typed copy of the Civil War experiences of John M. Porter.

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***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Beard family

Butler County – Deeds, 1812-1857

Butler County – Tax receipts, 1817

Civil War, 1861-1865 – Memoirs – Porter, John Marion, 1839-1884

Genealogy – Carson family

Genealogy – Chapman family

Genealogy – Hail family

Genealogy – Helm family

Genealogy – Moody family

Genealogy – Porter family

Genealogy – Sloss family

Livingston County – Deeds, 1822

Logan County – Legal papers, 1799-1856

Porter, Caroline “Carrie,” 1871-1956

Porter, Frances, 1867-1954

Porter, John Alexander, 1863-1928

Porter, John Marion, 1839-1884