

Archival Box #132 – Porter Family Collection

Descriptive Summary

Title: Porter Family Collection

Dates: 1853-1974

Accession Number: 4097, 4139

Donor: Wayne A. Mori (4097), Jeffrey Adams (4139)

Date of Acquisition: September 3, 2014 (4097), December 17, 2024 (4139)

Extent: 5 linear inches

Language: English

Location: 205 Second Storage Room, Archival Box #132

Biographical/Historical Note

Stephen Porter arrived in the Town of Pomfret in 1811, known to be a skilled mechanic who constructed many early houses in the area. Stephen Porter lived on West Main Rd., before relocating to a home on Berry Rd. In 1825, Stephen Porter signed the subscription list to furnish the first floor of the Fredonia Academy, pledging \$5.00 of labor for “joiner’s work”.

Stephen’s son, John Porter, was engaged as a farmer his whole life at the family homestead on West Main Rd and Berry Rd. John’s son, Herbert John Porter continued farming on the West Main Rd. and Berry Rd. properties. In 1925, Herbert John Porter purchased land on Risley St. and moved the Porter home. The Porter home was moved from West Main Rd. to Risley St. via Forest Pl., where it remains.

Herbert’s son Arthur attended the Fredonia Normal School and engaged in farming on the Porter property on Berry Rd. In addition to his agricultural pursuits, Arthur W. Porter also designed Hillview Golf Course, which he opened to the public in 1936. In 1959, Hillview Golf Course expanded to an 18-hole course, added on the south side of Berry Rd.

Scope and Content

This collection is comprised of receipts, correspondence, photographs, and ephemera from the Porter families descended from Stephen Porter.

Arrangement

The collection has been divided into four series. All series are in chronological order.

Access Points

Stephen Porter (1775-1842), John Porter (1815-1881), Herbert John Porter (1859-1931), Arthur W. Porter (1890-1965), Berry Road, Early Settlers, Fredonia Normal School, Hillview Golf Course

Administrative Information

This collection is open to researchers. Please contact the Darwin R. Barker Historical Museum’s Archivist with your request or to schedule a visit. No further accruals are expected.

Collection Overview

Series 1: Porter Family Papers

Folder 1.1: John Porter Papers

Folder 1.2: Herbert John Porter Papers

Folder 1.3: Arthur and Helen (West) Porter Papers

Folder 1.4: Mary Ellen (Porter) Dole Papers

Series 2: Porter Family Photographs

Folder 2.1: Stephen Porter, MD Home

Folder 2.2: Arthur W. Porter Home

Folder 2.3: Arthur W. Porter Farm

Folder 2.4: Porter Family Photographs

Folder 2.5: Golf Course Construction

Folder 2.6: Miscellaneous Porter Photographs

Series 3: Porter Family Ephemera

Folder 3.1: Porter Family Ephemera

Series 4: Normal School Publications

Folder 4.1: The Normal Leader

Folder 4.2: Omega Semi-Annual Sum Up