

IOWA, TUESDAY, OCT. 12, 1915

JOHN F. M. PORTER DEAD HOME FIRST VOTING PLACE

Coming When Country Was Wilderness, He Was Grant Township's Oldest Settler

John F. M. Porter, one of the oldest settlers in this county, at whose home the first township election was held in 1870, when only twenty votes were cast, died at 11:30 o'clock Tuesday morning. He came to Page County in 1855. He is survived by four children. The funeral was held at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the Methodist church at Essex. Mr. Porter fell at his home about three weeks ago and has been in poor health since. He was 83 years old. His wife died in 1886.

He was born in Cabell County, West Va., January 20, 1832, six years later going with his parents to Ohio and later to Tippecanoe County, Indiana. When nine years old it became necessary for him to support himself as his father died. The youth worked as a farm hand until he was twenty-one years old and then rented land and provided a home of his own. He was married to Miss Sarah Jane Jordan, January 29, 1852.

Coming to Iowa they settled in Cass County, investing his money in a two hundred acre farm. A yoke of oxen were bought on borrowed capital and he planned to make a living breaking prairie sod. The persons he plowed for had no money and were unable to pay him so he sold out and moved to Grant township in this county. At the time of his death he was the oldest settler in the township. From pioneer times he toiled hard, and through work and investments, came to be the owner of a thousand acres.

Mr. Porter is survived by four children: Mrs. George Maxwell, John C. Porter, William F. Porter and Thomas G. H. Porter. Since the death of his wife about 30 years ago, Mr. Porter has been cared for by Emma J. Bappe. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Herman of the Essex M. E. church. Pall bearers were Alfred Porter, Roy Porter, G. W. Maxwell, T. Maxwell, Glen Day and Will Day.