

Timeline of Porter Rockwell's Life

1813

June 28: Orrin Porter Rockwell is born in Belcher, Massachusetts, to Orin and Sarah Witt Rockwell.

1814

Wife Luana Hart Beebe born.

1829

August 5, 1829 Wife Mary Ann Neff, born.

1832

February 2: Married Luana Hart Beebe. They divorced in 1845.

April 6: Porter, his parents, and his younger brothers and sisters are present at the organization of the LDS Church

1833

July 20: Porter and his father were attacked by a mob at their ferry on the Big Blue River, Jackson County, Missouri.

Nov. 4: Missouri mob attacked the Rockwell Ferry at the Big Blue Settlement.

1834

January 31: Peter's first child, Emily Amanda Rockwell, born in Missouri.

October 31: Porter's home and its contents destroyed by Missouri mobocrats at the Big Blue Settlement.

November 7: Rockwell's family with hundreds of other forced from Jackson County Missouri.

1836

May 25: Daughter Caroline A. Rockwell, was born.

December 6: Wfe: Cristina Olsen, born in Norway.

1838

July 6, Ordained a Deacon at Far West, Missouri.

1839

January 20: Received his Patriarchal Blessing from Joseph Smith Sr.

Sept. 22: Porter Father Orin Rockwell died at Commerce, Illinois.

Oct. 27: Son Orrin DeWitt (Orrin Porter Rockwell Jr.) born.

Oct. 29: Porter, with Joseph Smith Jr. and other left Nauvoo for Washington DC.

1840

January 2: Filed on affidavit that Missouri mobsters cost him a financial loss of \$2,000 on his ferry on the Big Blue River in Missouri.

1841

March 25: Daughter, Sarah Rockwell, was born.

1842

March 15: On hearing of his arrest, Joseph Smith prophesied that Rockwell would “honorably escape” the clutches of the Missouriians.

May 6: Former Missouri Gov. Lilburn W. Boggs shot and wounded by gunman. Later reported to be Porter.

May 19: Joseph Smith becomes Mayor of Nauvoo, Utah. Porter becomes a member of Smith’s “Lifeguards”

August 8: Affidavit issued by Lilburn W. Boggs accusing Porter of shooting him on 06 May 1842. A reward of \$1300 was posted.

August 23: Joseph Smith writes of Porter: “He is an innocent and a noble boy...and my soul loveth him...”

1843

March 4: Arrested in St. Louis charged with the attempted assassination of Lilburn

W. Boggs.

December 1: Joseph Smith's diary makes mention of his Nauvoo Mansion barroom where Porter Rockwell was his bartender.

December 13: After nearly ten months in jail in Independence, Missouri, Porter was released from the charges that he had shot Lilburn Boggs.

December 25: Blessed by Joseph Smith Jr. that as long as he never cut his hair...no bullet or blade can harm thee."

1844

June 10: Participated in the destruction of the Nauvoo Expositor, an anti-Mormon newspaper in Nauvoo.

June 22: Early a.m. Porter rowed Joseph and Hyrum Smith and Willard Richards across the Mississippi River at Nauvoo to prevent their arrest.

June 24: Told by Joseph Smith, "Stay in Nauvoo and do not suffer yourself to be delivered into the hands of your enemies or be taken prisoner by anyone".

June 27: Joseph and Hyrum Smith murdered. The next morning, Porter's birthday, he rode through Nauvoo shouting, "Joseph is killed.-They have killed him! G..damn them! They have killed him."

July 7: Porter and two others were "raging" and threatened the life of Mormon apostate Robert D. Foster.

October 27: Son Joseph Calvin Adelman Rockwell born.

1845

Sept. 16: Lawman Rockwell shot Robert F. Smith and Frank Worrell of the Carthage Greys militia. Worrell dies. Later that day Rockwell kills four anti-Mormons near Warsaw, Illinois.

1846

January 5: Received his endowments in the Nauvoo Temple.

April 19: Arrived in Council Bluffs, Iowa with mail from the east

April 30: Arrested while in Nauvoo, taken to Carthage then Quincy, Ill.

August 16: Arrived in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Had been in jail for the killing of Frank

Worrell. The jury's verdict was that Porter had acted in self defense.
August 22: Appointed Brigham Young's bodyguard at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

1847

April 7: Left Winter Quarter, Nebraska and headed west with the Mormon Pioneer Company. He was appointed as scout and chief hunter.

April 26: On the pioneer trek west, a false alarm was raised that Porter was carried off by Indians.

April 27: Trying to retrieve stolen horses, Porter and others were ambushed by Indians. No lives were lost.

May 1: Hunted buffalo on route west with the Pioneer Company.

July 22: With an advanced company, he arrives in the Great Salt Lake Valley.

August 2: Lead a group from Salt Lake Valley back to meet the main body of Mormons coming west.

November 15: With others, was commissioned an emissary of the LDS Church to purchase goods in California.

1848

April 12: Left Rancho, El Chino, CA, guiding a company to Salt Lake as a route essentially as 1-15 today.

May 5: Led the Henry G. Boyle's Company of thirty five Mormon Battalion men into the Salt Lake Valley from California.

1849

March 12: Named Deputy Marshal for the Provincial State of Deseret

April 11: Blessed by the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve to lead Amasa Lyman and his party to California.

May 25: After arriving at Sutter's Fort in California, Porter opened a saloon at Murderer's, an inn at Buckeye Flat, and a "halfway house" near Mormon Island on the American River.

December 29: Porter's horses were marked with Cedar Tree marked with Cedar Tree brand on right thigh. His cattle carried a three-inch high OP on right hip.

1850

Sept. 5: En-route to Utah, from California, Porter shot and killed a “large Indian” trying to infiltrate the party.

Sept. 9: Appointed Utah Deputy Sheriff for life with territory wide jurisdiction.

1851

November 20: With John Neff obtained the land claim and privileges to Neff’s Canyon (first canyon south of Mill Creek).

1854

May 3: Married Mary Ann Neff in Salt Lake City. Ceremony performed by Brigham Young.

1855

March 10: Daughter, Mary Amanda Rockwell, was born.

1856

January 9: Addressed the Utah Legislature in Fillmore on the propriety of creating a stage and mail train from Missouri to California.

February 2: Addressed a Mass Meeting in Salt Lake City on Express Mail Service.

August 5: Daughter, Sarah Naomi Rockwell born in Salt Lake City.

October 1: Ordered the burning of Fort Supply in Wyoming to impede the advance of the Utah Expeditionary Force. (Johnson’s Army)

1857

May 10: Escorted Utah Territorial Governor Cumming back to Camp Scott in Wyoming after meeting with Brigham Young.

July 17: Eastbound with Utah mail, Porter returned to Fort Laramie after hearing the cancellation of the BYX’s mail contract by the federal government.

July 18: With Abraham Smoot and Judson Stoddard, began a 413-mile express ride to warn of the approach of the U.S. Army Expeditionary Force. (Johnson’s Army).

July 23: With two others, he arrives in Salt Lake Valley from Fort Laramie.

July 24: With others, he arrived in Big Cottonwood Canyon to tell Brigham Young

of approach of Johnson's army from the east.

November 21: The Aiken Party ambush took place near Nephi. Porter at the time of his death, was under indictment for his alleged role in the killings.

December 30: Indicted with twenty other Mormon men, for their role in the Utah War.

1858

August 6: A newspaper runs advertisement for Rockwell's Hot Springs Brewery Hotel near the present Utah State Prison.

August 14: Porter sold 319 acres in the Hot Spring Survey near the Utah State Prison in Draper to Thomas S. Williams and Charles Mogo.

October 23: Son John Orrin Rockwell born in Lehi, UT.

October 29: Porter purchased from Evan M. Green sixteen acres of property at the Hot Springs near the Point of the Mountain.

1859

July 14: Land certificate issued by territorial surveyors shows Rockwell owned 212 acres in the Hot Springs Survey near present Utah State Prison.

1860

February 19: Porter's son, David Porter Rockwell was born in Lehi, Utah.

August 29: En route to Pike's Peak commanding a wagon trail carrying flour.

1861

January 26: Brought charges before Brigham Young that Lehi resident Israel Evans had rustled an Ox of Porters. Evans was later disfellowshipped.

April 20: The first Pony Express rider stopped at Rockwell Station at the Point of the Mountain.

1862

January 16: Captured notorious thugs Mormoni Clawson and John Smith and killed Lot Huntington at Faust, Utah.

November 19: Son, Forrest Neff Rockwell, born.

1863

January 27: Served as guide for the U.S. Army which before dawn on 29 Jan. attacked a Shoshone and Bannock encampment near Preston, Idaho killing more than 200.

June 11: Took the bodies of Wood Reynolds and Thomas O' Shonnison for burial at the Salt Lake City Cemetery. The men were killed by Indians the day before west of Lehi.

1864

August 28: Daughter, Letitia Barr Rockwell was born.

1866

August 24: Son, Joseph Neff Rockwell born.

Sept. 28: Wife Mary Ann Neff died.

December 19: Paid \$7,500 to Wells Fargo and Company for Lot 3, Block 73 (east side of 2nd East Street between South Temple and 1st South streets) in Salt Lake City.

1868

December 18: With Henry Heath, he captured the notorious murderer Chauncey Millard, in Rush Valley.

1869

January 29: In Provo, witnessed the execution of Chauncey Millard, an 18-year-old killer he had apprehended

Sept. 17: Porter and Mary Ann's adopted Indian daughter, Talithia, died. (born in 1848).

October 3: During a speech by U.S. Vice-President Schuyler Colfax, Porter objected to his being called a killer and reportedly yelled, "I never killed anyone who didn't need killing."

1870

January 1: Married Christian Olsen

May 4: Led a posse which shot to death notorious murderer Albert H. Haws, who had killed a U.S. Marshal.

October 9: Posted a \$500 “peace bond” before a local magistrate for a fight in the tavern of the Salt Lake House.

1871

February 9: Wilford Woodruff visited Porter at his ranch on Government Creek and noted he had 500 horses and mules and 140 head of cattle.

November 28: Indictment for murders of the Aiken Party names Porter and several others.

1872

Sept. 9: Porter and Mary Ann’s adopted Indian son “William” died. (Born in 1852)

1873

June 1, 1873 Called by Brigham Young to help George W. Bean colonize Grass Valley near Fish Lake, Utah

June 3: Daughter Elizabeth Christina Rockwell was born in Salt Lake City.

June 25: Lehi City Court records report the escape of Orrin Porter Rockwell after being charged with “afray”; a gunfight with Lorin Dibble.

1875

Sept. 28: Son Stephen Porter Rockwell born in Salt Lake City.

1877

Sept. 30: Indicted by a grand jury for alleged participation in the 1858 murders of the Aiken party near Nephi, Utah.

October 6: After a week in jail on the Aiken charges, Porter was released on a \$15,000 bail posted by friends.

1878

June 8: On the eve of his death, he attended the Salt Lake Theater with his daughter Mary seeing the play "Joshua Whitcomb".

June 9: Died near 5:00 p.m. of heart failure at his office at the Colorado Stables in Salt Lake City.

June 12: Funeral held at the Salt Lake City 14th Ward school house. Joseph F. Smith preached the funeral sermon. Thirteen hundred were in attendance. Porter's worth at the time of death was reportedly \$30,000.

June 21: Church-owned Deseret News wrote of Porter: "honorable in all his dealings, true to his friends, and his word, firm in faith; feared only by cattle-thieves, and mobocrats and their supporters.

October 4: Last child, Ida May Rockwell, was born.

1897

March 6: Wife: Beebe died. Buried in Provo City Cemetery.

1911

April 14: Porter's last wife Christina Olsen, died.

1971

Porter's Place Restaurant, owned by Dennis Huggard, opened in Lehi.