

July 23, 1993

Dear Mr. Porter,

I received your letter of July 19 concerning membership to the Wells Family. At this time I can't accept your application because the information you supplied us does not agree with our records of the family.

In our new book on the Wells Family, which covers the 4 generations from the Governor, we have Esther Thompson marrying Samuel Gridley and having 11 children.

Our records on the girls lines of the Wells' don't go up to the present time, so I can't follow your line up to the present time.

I am sending you two new applications. Please check your line again with the line I am submitting and see if our records are correct. If so, you can resubmit and see

if our records match.

I think you just left out a few lines of the early descendants.

As I mentioned before we have one Volume out on the Wells family and are working on Volume 2. so any help we can get with family lines will be helpful in our research.

You can send copies of anything you have to me. I am working on the next 2 generations for Volume 2, I'll make copies of what you send and mail a set to Donna Saemiakoskoki.

We found errors in our first book, which will be corrected in Volume 2 so we would like to avoid any errors in that Volume.

If you have a list of all of Easter and Benjamin Porter's children please send me a copy of that so I can see how much Donna has

found

Also, please give us your date of marriage when you return the application. See my note on returned application.

It is also important to us that we have copies of errors you have found in Lida Haven Wen's info.

I'll be looking forward to hearing from you. Perhaps you would like to adopt a line of the family and help with our research. If you are interested let me know and I'll explain further about this.

When your line of descent is proven you might want to consider becoming a life member for \$50.00 before the rates go up in October. That way you won't have to send \$10.00 each year to remain a member of the family. I hope

You can understand everything.
If you have any question, please
write to me or call 203-924-1204.

Our records list the wife of
Benjamin Porter as "Easter" but you
list it as Esther. Please advise which
is correct.

Sincerely,

Janet Lantonsky

On the Application

Line 1 Thomas Welles, born 1590

Line 2 Anne Welles - m. Thomas Thompson

b. 1620 m. Apr. 14, 1646

Line 3 John Thompson Sr. born 1649

m. Mary Steele Oct 24, 1670

↳ b. Dec. 5, 1652

Line 4 ↘

Thomas Thompson - b. Jan. 30, 1674

m. Elizabeth Cowles Jan. 15, 1706/7

↳ b. Mar. 17, 1679/80

Line 5 - Easter Thompson - b. July 13, 1710

m. Benjamin Porter Nov. 25, 1726

Our records end here - So if your information for Easter children ~~are~~ are correct - Ashbel Porter goes on line 6 and continues up to line 11 with your name.

Welles Family Association

(Descendants of Governor Thomas Welles)

"All descendants of Thomas Welles, together with their wives or husbands, shall be eligible to membership and may become members only upon approval of the Credential Committee and the payment of the prescribed fee."

I hereby apply for membership in the Welles Family Association. My line of descent is as follows:

Generation

1. Thomas Welles, born in England, about 1590.

2. Thomas Thompson = Anne Welles

3. Benjamin Porter = Esther Thompson

Reference (a) b. 14 Feb 1700/1; m. 25 Nov 1726; b. 13 Jul 1710

4. Ashbel Porter = Lorene Benton

Reference (b) b. 25 Feb 1744/5; m. c.1780; b. 22 Jun 1762

5. Seth Porter = Rhoda Covey

Reference (c) b. 15 Jan 1793; m. c.1815; b. 12 Jul 1797

6. Van Rensselaer Porter = Eliza Rogers

Reference (d) b. Aug 1821; m. c.1845; b. 20 Feb 1828

7. Clarence James Porter, Sr. = Mary Lovisa "May" Sutton

Reference (e) b. 25 Dec 1847; m. c.1878; b. 11 Jan 1859

8. Clarence James Porter, Jr. = Mary Ellen "Marie" Irwin

Reference (f) b. 13 Apr 1890; m. 9 Jul 1924; b. 26 Jan 1902

9. Raymond J. Porter - m. Winifred Carlisle

Reference (g) b. Nov. 11, 1925; m. 12 Oct 1946; b. July 7, 1928

10.

Reference (h)

11.

Reference (i)

12.

Reference (j)

(Over)

Use another piece of paper for additional generations and attach to this page. Thank you.

I was born in the town of Chicago
State of Illinois Date 11 Nov. 1925
Present address No. 13662 Street Loretta Drive
Town Tustin State CA 92680

Signed [Signature] Date 7-19-93

Not Approved by Credential Committee

Date July 23, 1993

Janet W. Lantowsky

Mrs. Janet Lantowsky
Mr. Kevin Lantowsky
2 Howard Avenue
Shelton, CT 06484

Must re-apply

Credential Committee

Additional lines of descent may be registered on separate applications.

Additional information:

Name of husband or wife Winifred Carlisle

Born at Tampa, FL Date 7 Jul 1928

Children

1 Judith Ellen Porter born 24 Aug 1947

2 Beverly Marie Porter 2 May 1949

3 James Clarence Porter 23 May 1950

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

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(Descendants of Governor Thomas Welles)

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I hereby apply for membership in the Welles Family Association. My line of descent is as follows:

Generation

1. Thomas Welles, born in England, about 1590.

2. THOMAS THOMPSON = ANNE WELLES

3. JOHN THOMPSON = MARY STEELE

Reference (a) b. ca. 1649; m. 24 Oct 1670; b. ~~20 Nov 1646~~ 5 Dec 1652

4. DR. THOMAS THOMPSON = ELIZABETH COWLES

Reference (b) b. 30 JUN 1674; m. 15 JAN 1706/7; b. 17 MAR 1679/0

5. BENJAMIN PORTER = EASTER/ESTHER THOMPSON

Reference (c) b. 14 FEB 1700/1; m. 25 Nov 1726; b. 13 JUL 1710

6. _____

Reference (d) _____

7. _____

Reference (e) _____

8. _____

Reference (f) _____

9. _____

Reference (g) _____

10. _____

Reference (h) _____

11. _____

Reference (i) _____

12. _____

Reference (j) _____

(Over)

Use another piece of paper for additional generations and attach to this page. Thank you.

SNLTS 15/

July 31, 1993

Janet W. Lantowsky
2 Howard Ave.
Shelton, CT 06484

Dear Janet:

Oops! In my haste to get my application in the mail, I got my Thomas Thompsons mixed up, as you discovered. Thanks for catching the errors. I will correct the application and resubmit it herewith.

On the matter of Mary Steele's birth date, the *Steele Family* by Durrie gives it as 20 Nov 1646, Savage and *The Thompson Family, A Genealogy*, reprinted from *The Boston Transcript*, give 20 Nov 1647, Siemiatkowski gives 5 Dec 1652, all without citation. Until I can check it out for myself, I am carrying all three dates in my database. Since I am applying for membership in the Welles Family Association, I suppose I should use the "official" Siemiatkowski date on my application, but I have reservations.

I have references to 30 Jan 1674 and 30 Jun 1674 as the birth date of Dr. Thomas Thompson. Since Siemiatkowski cites Farmington VRs for 30 Jun, I am using it until I can check it out myself. (You had 30 Jan in your letter, which I assume is a "writeo.")

As to Easter/Esther Thompson, I have both spellings: Easter in *The Thompson Family, A Genealogy* and Esther in *Genealogy of the Cowles Family in America* by Cowles. Since the Cowles genealogy appears to be a more "professional" work, and I personally suspect that Easter is just a spelling variant of Esther, I chose to use Esther. I could be persuaded either way. To keep things in line with the official line, I will use Easter/Esther on my application.

I will enclose copies of all of my direct-line Porter FGSs as well as those for two more of Ashbel Porter's sons. I have no idea what happened to his first son, Samuel Griswold Porter. I'll hold off on additional descendants until you want them. I have hundreds of descendants of Thomas Porter, father of Benjamin Porter, through his other sons, but I doubt that you are interested in them. They're not my direct line either, but I'm collecting all of the descendants of Robert Porter that I can find.

The reason for enclosing at this time all three of Ashbel Porter's sons who came to Sandy Creek, NY is that the error in Lida Weir's genealogy involves the other two sons that I am not descended from.

The first area of disagreement I have with Lida is in her identifying Ashbel Porter, Sr. as Lieut. Ashbel Porter, who served in Col. Mosley's regiment in the Revolution. There is ample evidence in *The History of Waterbury, Connecticut* to establish that Lieut. Ashbel Porter was the son of Ashbel Porter, and that they were descended from Dr. Daniel Porter of Hartford, possibly a brother of Robert Porter. Col. Mosely was also of Waterbury.

On the other hand, I have ample evidence to prove that Ashbel Porter, son of Benjamin Porter, served as a Private from Harwinton, Connecticut in 1775. He contracted dysentery and was given a medical discharge. He also served as an official of the town during the Revolution. This service was documented well enough to get me accepted by the SAR. I will not enclose it now, as you are probably not interested in it yet.

Three of Ashbel's children, Ashbel, Levi, and Seth, came to Sandy Creek, New York in the early 1800s. Ashbel, Jr. and Levi both had sons named John, one went simply by John, the other went

by John W. (most of the time). I went to a great deal of trouble to prove that John W. was the son of Ashbel, and John was the son of Levi. At the time, I was just trying to straighten out all of the Porters who lived in Sandy Creek from about 1800 to after 1900.

There is no question that John married Lucretia Hedger, and John W. married Cynthia Salisbury. Lida is undoubtedly descended from John W., but she said that John W. was Levi's son and continues her line through Levi and his wife, Nancy Younglove. When I saw this, I wrote to her and gave her my reasons for disagreeing with her genealogy. I will enclose the first page of her reply as well as a copy of a later letter to her.

I have no idea where the information on the slip of paper that she mentions came from originally. Up to the point where it says that John was the father of Orlo Rounds Porter, I have no argument with it, and assume that the information is probably correct.

It is true that Orlo's father was John, but it was John W., son of Ashbel, not John, Son of Levi. This is amply documented in the censuses, in probate records, in land records, and several other records. I will condense my arguments, as the whole case takes several pages to build. If necessary, I'll drag out the whole mess.

Ashbel Porter died 13 Jun 1854, and a Letter of Administration was granted to Mary Porter and John Porter on 22 Aug 1854. Mary was his third wife, and John was his son, John W., although his name is given only as John in the administration. This is unfortunate, and makes it necessary to go through several convolutions to prove that this John is John W.

On 25 Apr 1855 a grant deed conveyed 58.61 acres from Mary Porter, widow of Ashbel Porter, late of Sandy Creek, deceased; William Porter of Allegan [, Michigan]; John Kelley and Phoebe Ann, his wife, of St. Clair, Michigan; Amy Lilley, Sarah J. Lilley, and Almon J. Lilley of Erie County, Pennsylvania; Steven Soule and Sarah, his wife, of Richland, New York; and Jane Porter of Sandy Creek to John W. Porter of Sandy Creek for one dollar.

The deed gave the interest in Ashbel's property of Ashbel's widow, all of his children (except John W.), and the children of one deceased daughter to John W. for one dollar. This, in itself, should be evidence enough that John W. was Ashbel's son. It could be argued that the heirs gave away their inheritance to a cousin, and that John W. was really Levi's son, but that defies logic, and John (no W.) would have had to be one of the grantees; he was not.

But there is more. The 1855 state census enumeration for John W. Porter provides additional clues to Ashbel's family:

John W. Porter	38		Oswego	38
Cynthia Porter	39	Wife	Vermont	38
H. M. Porter	12	Son	Oswego	12
Orlo R. Porter	10	Son	Do	10
Jenny C. Porter	3	Daughter	Do	3
Jane Porter	39	Sister	Do	39
Sarah Jane Lilley	23	Niece	Do	3/12

The listings for Jane Porter and Sarah Jane Lilley are particularly interesting because they place John W. Porter in Ashbel's family and not Levi's (as documented by Mrs. Weir). Jane Porter was one of Ashbel's heirs on the grant deed. Sarah Jane Lilley, daughter of Lorene B. Porter and Abner Lilley, was born in Sandy Creek and moved to Pennsylvania with her parents. Apparently the 3/12 indicates when she returned to Oswego Co. Sarah J. was one of the heirs on the grant deed, because her mother predeceased Ashbel. If John W. were Levi's son, they would be his first and second cousins, not sister and niece.

There is still more. I have made numerous extracts from the Sandy Creek newspapers and have copied many clippings. Much of this information is merely hearsay and it thus merely corroborative. However, one newspaper article from the 4 Dec 1930 issue of *The Sandy Creek News* gave a first person account of the ancestry of Mrs. Lettie Porter Wart. In it she names her

father, John Porter, her grandfather, Levi Porter, and her grandfather's brothers, Ashbel and Seth. This one article gave me the proof that I need, that Seth was the brother of Ashbel and Levi (although there were tons of circumstantial evidence) and also proved that John W. was not Levi's son. There is no question that Lettie is not a daughter of John W. Porter and that she is not a sister of Edgar John "Ned" Porter from whom Lida Weir is descended.

I won't go into the arrangement of the Porter graves in the Stevens Cemetery other to say that they confirm the above.

I suppose, after all of this talk of John and John W., I ought to include their FGSs so you can keep the players straight. I'm sure that the information that Lida gave you predates our exchange of letters, and I'm not sure that she accepted my arguments. I have a feeling that she still says that she is descended from Levi and Lieut. Ashbel Porter.

Tell me more about "adopting" a family line. It sounds interesting. Since I'm already collecting material for a book on the descendants of Robert Porter and have all of his known (to me) descendants in my database, it shouldn't pose a problem. I might even make some more contacts and add more descendants. Who knows?

My primary research for the last several years has been in New York, Massachusetts, and points west. I've been accepting secondary sources for pre-Revolutionary Connecticut, but that is changing. I just returned from the local FHL, where I ordered 26 rolls of early Connecticut vital records to use in documenting my relatives there. That should keep me busy for a while!

I'll look forward to hearing from you about my application, the corrections to Lida Weir's line, and the "adopting" thing.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

July 19, 1993

Mrs. Janet W. Lantowsky
2 Howard Ave.
Shelton, CT 06484

Dear Janet:

I spoke with Marty on the phone a couple of weeks ago, and she sent me information and the enclosed applications for the Welles Family Association. I wasn't sure of what to put in the "Reference" slots, so put in birth and marriage dates. If it isn't right, send me a couple more forms, and I'll try again.

I was going to include my family group sheets with this application, but I wasn't sure just how far you want to go with the descendants, and I don't want to do a lot of unnecessary work. I have a very large number of descendants of Benjamin Porter in my Roots III database, down through my great-grandchildren, and including many branches not in my direct line for several generations. To copy all of this onto your forms by hand would be a monstrous task.

I can copy my Roots III printouts for you, if that is acceptable, and I will even give you a copy of my entire Roots III database if you want it. It includes many ancestral lines of families that married into the Porter family. I can also split off just the descendants of Benjamin Porter and Anna Welles if you prefer.

Much of my work in the last several years has been on the three sons of Ashbel Porter, Sr. who settled in Sandy Creek, NY and the families they intermarried with. I have followed all lines of descent as far as I was able, even the families that the daughters married into. This process is ongoing.

In the course of my research, I corresponded with my cousin, Lida Haven Weir, about our common ancestry. I note that she is listed as one of those who contributed genealogical data to the Welles book (her name is given as Linda Haven Weir, but I assume this is a typo). I don't know how to say this diplomatically, so I'll just spit it out.

In the course of our correspondence, it became obvious that she had a serious error in her ancestry, which I pointed out to her and presented the evidence to prove my point. About that time, she became ill and put off her decision to evaluate my evidence and accept or reject it. The last I corresponded with her, last Fall, she had had two strokes and was recuperating at her daughter's home in New York, but had not been able to work on her genealogy.

Without getting into the details now, there were two John Porters, sons of Ashbel, Jr. and Levi Porter, who were brothers of Seth Porter, my ancestor. Lida is descended from Ashbel, Jr.'s son John, but she has her ancestry through Levi's son John as a result of some earlier (erroneous) genealogical research which was passed down to her.

I'm sure that any data that she sent you predates my discovery of her error. I would hate to see this error perpetuated any further in print, and I really don't want to have to have to put a "Chapter 2" into my book to point out errors in other books. I would like to send the same evidence that I sent to Lida to whomever is responsible for evaluating evidence, and I am sure that we can avoid printing erroneous information.

Perhaps I'm over-reacting, but after spending years sweating bullets over the smallest details, the thought of an error of this magnitude being perpetuated in my family genealogy horrifies me.

Please let me know how far you want me to go with the FGS's and in what form they will be acceptable. Also, please tell me where to send the evidence for Lida's ancestry being through Ashbel, Jr., not Levi Porter. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

Welles Family Association

(Descendants of Governor Thomas Welles)

"All descendants of Thomas Welles, together with their wives or husbands, shall be eligible to membership and may become members only upon approval of the Credential Committee and the payment of the prescribed fee."

I hereby apply for membership in the Welles Family Association. My line of descent is as follows:

Generation

1. Thomas Welles, born in England, about 1590.

2. *Thomas Thompson = Anne Welles*

3. *Benjamin Parker = Esther Thompson*

Reference (a) *b. 14 Feb 1709/10; m. 25 Nov 1726; b. 13 Jul 1710*

4. *Asbel Parker = Lavene Benton*

Reference (b) *b. 25 Feb 1744/5; m. c. 1780; b. 23 Jun 1762*

5. *Seth Parker = Rhoda Covey*

Reference (c) *b. 15 Jan 1793; m. c. 1815; b. 12 Jul 1797*

6. *Van Rensselaer Parker = Eliza Rogers*

Reference (d) *b. Aug 1821; m. c. 1845; b. 20 Feb 1828*

7. *Clarence J. Parker^{5th} = Mary L^{1st} "May" Sutton*

Reference (e) *b. 21 Dec 1847; m. c. 1878; b. 11 Jan 1859*

8. *Clarence J. Parker^{3rd} Jr. = Mary Ellen "Minnie" ~~Paul~~ Lewis*

Reference (f) *b. 13 Apr 1890; m. 9 Jul 1924; b. 26 Jan 1902*

9. _____

Reference (g) _____

10. _____

Reference (h) _____

11. _____

Reference (i) _____

12. _____

Reference (j) _____

(Over)

Use another piece of paper for additional generations and attach to this page. Thank you.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GOVERNOR THOMAS WELLES

Thomas Welles, 4th colonial governor of Connecticut was b. circa 1590 in Whichford, Warwickshire, England. He was the son of Robert Welles of Stourton, a hamlet of Whichford. The Welles family had been in Whichford for at least several generations when Thomas Welles was born. Robert, his father was bapt. Nov. 6 1540. d. about 1619. m. Alice ? (possibly Hunt). The father of Robert was Thomas Welles buried in Whichford, Aug. 30, 1558. His first wife was Elizabeth ? the mother of his children, Ann and Robert. and she was buried in Whichford, Jan. 11 1552/3. It is thought, that one Robert Welles who was taxed at Whichford, Warwickshire in 1523 was the father of our Thomas (Gov.)'s grandfather, Thomas. (see above) We know for sure only that Gov. Welles had a sister and older brother, Robert. He m. soon after July 5, 1615, Alice Tomes, daughter of John Tomes and Widow Ellen (Gunne) Phelps of Long Marston, a small parish in Gloucestershire. It is interesting to note that after the battle of Worchester (Sept. 3, 1651) when Charles II narrowly escaped being captured by Cromwell, he lay concealed one night in the house of Alice Tomes's half brother, John Tomes, who protected the royal fugitive at a dangerous hazard. It is further believed that this deed had an important impact on Connecticut getting it's Royal Charter (Thomas Welles then being active in the government in Hartford, (CT). Thomas, with his wife and six children, was in Boston June 9, 1636. He probably came to Hartford in late 1636 as he was a member of a court held in Hartford, March 28, 1637. Alice Tomes died in Hartford before 1646. She was the mother of all his children. In 1646 he married Elizabeth (Deming) Foote, widow of Nathaniel Foote & sister of John Deming (both founders of Wethersfield) and moved to Wethersfield. He died in Wethersfield January 14, 1659/60. He died unexpectedly in the night , having apparently been in good health when he ate his supper. It is assumed that he was buried in Wethersfield but was later removed to the Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford where the actual spot of interment has been lost. His son Thomas is also buried there and his grave is also unmarked.

Children of Thomas and Alice (Tomes) Welles :

1. Mary, b. circa 1618; d. before her father (her children are mentioned in his will dated Nov. 1658): m. Timothy Baldwin of Milford, CT.
2. Anne, b. abt 1619, England; m. (1) 14 April, 1646. Thomas Thompson, of Farmington; m. (2) Anthony Hawkins/Howkins; d. before 19 Oct. 1680.
3. John, b. abt 1621, England; m. at Stratford, CT, 1647 Elizabeth Bourne.
4. Robert, b 1624; d. before family left England.
5. Thomas, b. 1627; m. 23 June 1654, Hannah Tuttle; d. 1668. killed by fall from cherry tree; his grave was said to have been 7 feet long (He was said to be very tall for that era!).
6. Samuel (Hon.), b. abt 1630, England; d. 15 July 1675; m. (1) Elizabeth Hollister, (2) Hannah Lamberton.
7. Sarah, b. 1631/32 England; d. 11 Dec. 1698; m. Feb. 1653. Cap't John Chester of Wethersfield.
8. Joseph, b. 1637. Nothing further is known. It is supposed that he was b. and d. shortly thereafter in Hartford, CT.

The Descendents of
Gov. Thomas Welles of Connecticut, 1590-1660,
and his Wife Alice Tomes

by Donna Holt Siemiakoski

This four-generation study of the descendents of Gov. Thomas Welles was recently completed by the Connecticut Valley genealogy specialist Donna Holt Siemiakoski. The Welles family has up to now been inadequately addressed in print. Only manuscript collections have attempted to identify all descendents and these manuscripts are not widely available to researchers outside Connecticut. This book rectifies this problem. Mrs. Siemiakoski has gone back to original sources to produce the definitive genealogy on the descendents of Gov. Thomas Welles, the fourth colonial governor of Connecticut.

Using her extensive knowledge of Connecticut history, Mrs. Siemiakoski places the Welles family into perspective by discussing the political and religious issues that surrounded them in both England and New England. The pedigrees of the Welles and Tomes families in England are included and the Tomes line extended back another generation through the connections Mrs. Siemiakoski has made with the Tomes family in England.

Descendents in both male and female lines are covered in the book. As a result, the book stands as a complete four-generation record of the descendents of Timothy Baldwin, husband of Mary Welles; Thomas Thompson, husband of Anne Welles; and Capt. John Chester, husband of Sarah Welles. In the third generation, the book has many descendents of the Baldwin, Botsford, Hart, Gridley, and Curtis families. By the fourth generation, descendents of Gov. Welles and Alice Tomes were living in virtually every town in Connecticut and many in Massachusetts.

The book is the result of extensive and thorough research. Several new descendents have been uncovered and their connections supported through primary evidence. At every point, the author has provided references and explained reasoning. Additional material examines errors about the family that have appeared in earlier literature. Also included is an appendix listing published information on other families with the Welles/Wells surname present at this time in New England and on Long Island, resulting in a listing of virtually every published Welles/Wells name in the area before 1750.

For her Welles genealogy, Mrs. Siemiakoski won a Distinctive Commendation from the Connecticut Society of Genealogists during its 1991 book competition.

The Descendents of Gov. Thomas Welles of Connecticut, 1590-1660, and his Wife Alice Tomes, by Donna Holt Siemiakoski, printed 1990 by Gateway Press, Baltimore, MD, 244 pages, bibliography, index, five illustrations, \$30 including postage and handling for US sites; postage for Europe \$7.50, Mexico and Canada \$3.75.

Number of books _____, at \$30 each

Postage for Europe, Mexico, or Canada

Total costs (shipping and handling included)

Please make your check payable to *The Welles Family Association* and mail it to:

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

The Welles Family Association
P. O. Box 290526
Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109

Name _____

Address _____
