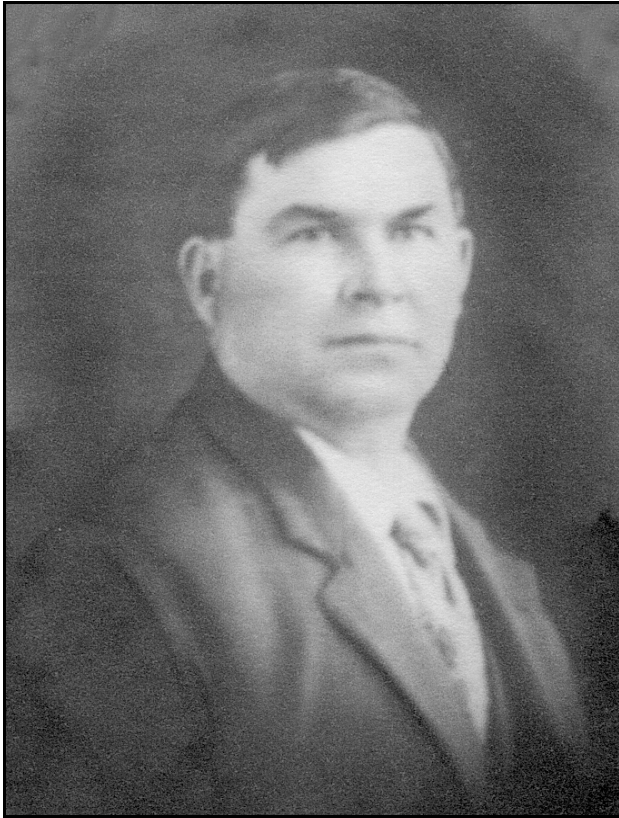


THIRD GENERATION

PORTER WILLARD PRICE (Son of Ezekiel Price and Rhoda Watkins)

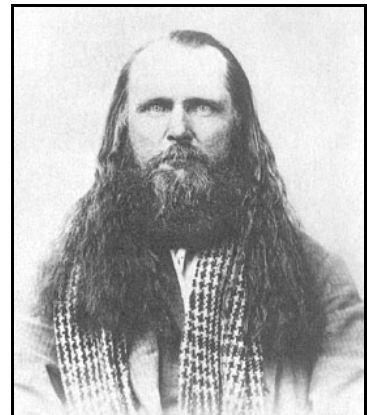


[Largely adapted from “Porter Willard Price,” by Leona Price Boyce, and “Dorothy Ann Metcalf Price,” by Mary Ann Price Roundy Loader.]

Porter Willard Price was born on 22 April 1875 in Draper, Utah. He was the tenth child and fifth son of Ezekiel and Rhoda Watkins Price. Ezekiel was a successful farmer and horse breeder and Rhoda was a talented rider and lover of horses. At the time of the baby’s birth, Porter’s mother was being attended in the Price home by family and neighbor women. Meanwhile, another neighbor, a successful horse rancher, was keeping company with the baby’s father in the parlor. The two men were old friends and often visited each other.

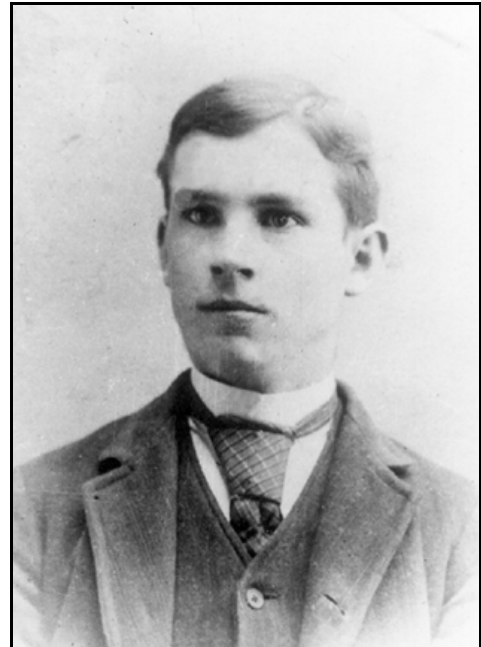
When the men were given the good news that the new baby was a healthy boy, the horse rancher made a good-humored offer to his close friend Ezekiel Price: If Ezekiel would name the baby after the rancher, he would give Ezekiel a fine horse from his valuable stock. Smiling, Ezekiel agreed, and the bargain was sealed. And thus, the baby became known as Porter Willard Price, named after the rancher.

The rancher, by the way, also happened to be one of the most widely known gunmen and lawmen in the west—Orrin Porter Rockwell. It may be that Porter Rockwell recognized a kinship of spirit in the squalling infant. (Porter Willard Price would one day be a lawman himself, and his first act as marshal would be to arrest the man he replaced—the former marshal!)



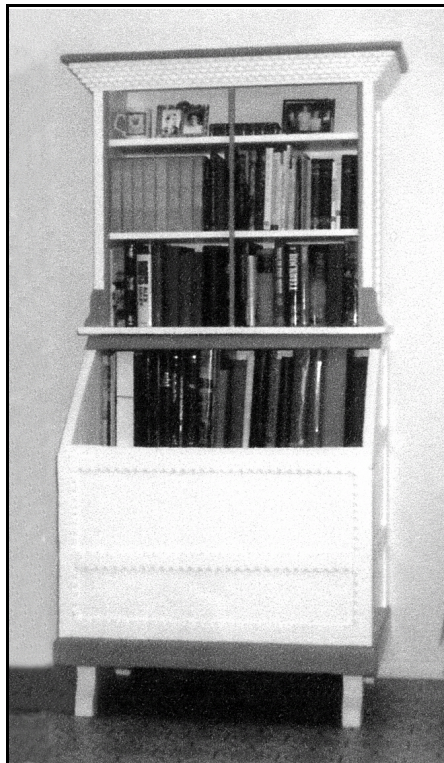
Porter Rockwell offered a fine horse in return for a namesake.

Porter Price grew up learning all the arts of farming and raising livestock. His family were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In those years in Draper, new baptisms in the Church took place once a year, and so Porter was baptized with several others in the chilly waters of a pond on the upper edge of Draper on 1 May 1885. Peter N Garff baptized Porter and William C. Allen confirmed him as a Church member.



Porter W. Price as a young man.

Porter had a special love for horses. While still a boy, Ezekiel gave Porter a black Morgan colt. Porter named the colt Sam. The two became inseparable, and Porter rode Sam everywhere. Sam had a tractable temperment and was equally willing to be ridden or to pull a carriage or wagon. Despite his breeding as a hardy and light riding horse, Sam had surprising strength, and Porter soon began entering the splendid Morgan in a series of pulling contests at the local fairs. Sam invariably won.



The cupboard Porter made as a wedding gift was converted into a bookcase after Porter's death.

Porter was sixteen when his father contracted pneumonia and died. His father's property was divided up among the older family members, and it became necessary for Porter to look for work beyond the family farm. He and his older brother David L. Price took their horse teams to Cedar Fort to work at cutting and hauling cedar posts. After a short stay, Porter and Dave were offered work by a cousin, William Henry Price, who had found work in Scofield, Carbon County, Utah, and needed help to bale hay.

The cousins went to work in Scofield for a farmer named James Wilkinson Metcalf. James Metcalf was an immigrant from Durham, England, who worked at the nearby Winter Quarters Mine and ran his own farm. James had two unmarried daughters, Dorothy and Lydia Jane. Dorothy had broken from a previous union and had a young son, Joseph Hyrum Metcalf. Soon, during off hours, Porter was



Dorothy Ann Stonebanks Metcalf was born 8 March 1879 in Middlestone, Durham, England.

City, conducted by Elder George E. Blair. Porter gave his name as “Willard Price”; Dorothy, for undisclosed reasons, used her middle names: “Annie Stonebank.” Both Porter and Dorothy claimed to be residents of Eureka in Juab County. (Perhaps Porter was temporarily working in the mining town of Eureka.) Dorothy’s mother, Mary Ann Metcalf, was present at the marriage and signed the license as a witness.

After the marriage, Porter gave the cupboard to Dorothy as his wedding gift. (The cupboard would be kept by Porter for all of his life, even after Dorothy’s death; it remains in Porter’s family today, refashioned into a bookcase.)

The couple traveled to Draper for the honeymoon with Porter’s horse Sam hitched beside another horse to pull the wagon. Upon their arrival in Draper, high winds began to whip through the valley. The early pioneers had planted row upon row of tall Lombardy poplar trees as windbreaks; Dorothy fearfully eyed the lofty trees as

looking for opportunities to spend some time with Dorothy, while his cousin Will began to squire Lydia.

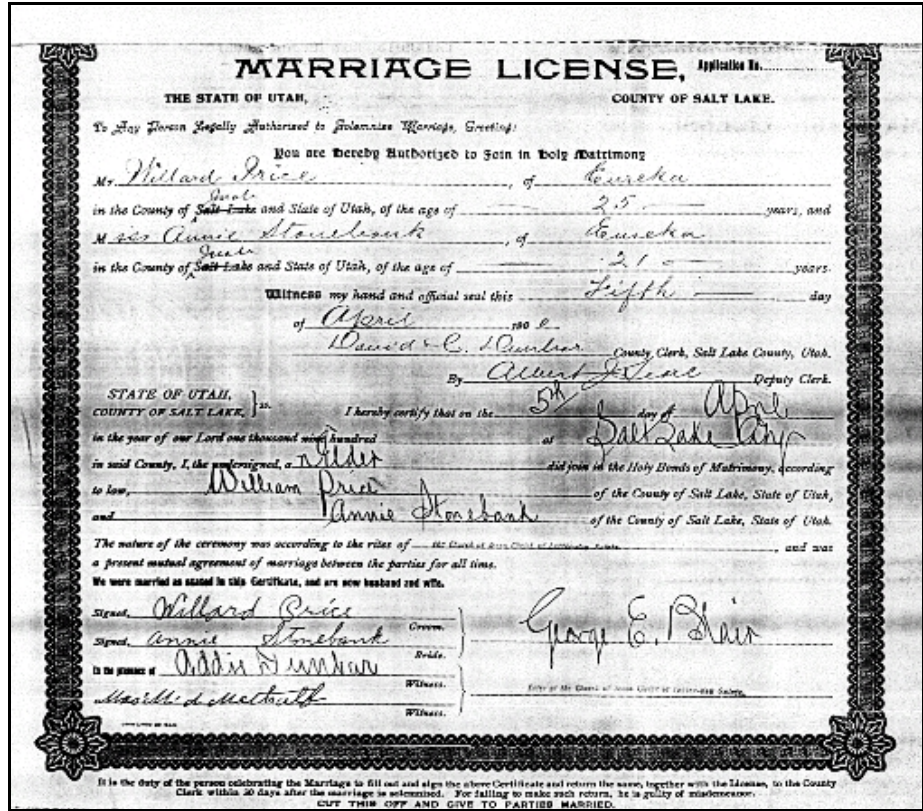
In August of 1899, Dorothy Metcalf Price’s sister, Lydia, married Porter’s cousin William Henry Price. Porter’s courtship had also been taking a similar turn. Porter had started gathering scraps of lumber and using only a hammer, saw, and pocket knife, he fashioned a cupboard. When the cupboard was finished, according to family lore, Porter and Dorothy took a ride together that ended up in front of an LDS lay minister.

In later years, Porter would indicate in a brief biographical note that the marriage occurred sometime in “August 1899.” The recorded marriage, however, took place 5 April 1900 in Salt Lake

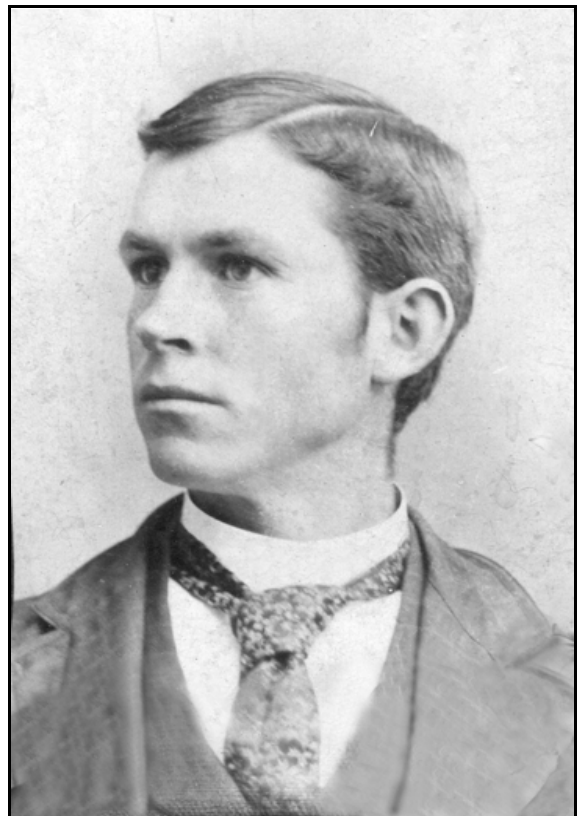
they would groan and bend before the high winds and became convinced a tree would topple on them if they stayed. Porter was protective of Dorothy's anxiety and he obligingly steered the team past Draper to a sheltered spot near Point of the Mountain to spend the night.

Porter and Dorothy remained in Schofield to help on her father's farm while James Metcalf divided his time between farming and working for the coal company. Then Porter and Cousin Will each took up new adjoining homesteads in an area called "Pond Town." The two cousins hatched the clever idea of building one cabin to serve for both homesteads. They constructed a two-room log cabin, straddling it directly over the dividing line of their properties, allowing one room for Porter's property and the other room for Will's property. In one blow, they satisfied the homesteading requirement to improve the properties.

In addition to farming, Porter and Will both worked for the coal company. Will worked sporadically in the mine while Porter worked outside "on the tippel," tipping the loads from the mining cars on to the coal



Above: the marriage license, signed with the middle names of Porter and Dorothy. Below: Porter, about the time of his marriage.



piles. On 1 May 1900, the Winter Quarters Mine exploded, killing over 200 (including several miners' children helping inside the mine) and injuring numerous others. Neither Dorothy's father nor Will had worked at the mine that day; at the sound of the massive explosion, Porter, Will, and James Metcalf each rushed to the mine and became engaged in helping to excavate the dead and the injured.



Rescue crews transporting victims from the Winter Quarters Mine explosion, 1 May 1900. (*Utah State Historical Society*)

Porter and Dorothy sold their Scofield house to Dorothy's father and moved on to their homestead to continue improvements. After a winter when the snow fell so deep that the fences were covered, their first child, Mary Ann Price, was born on 11 May 1900. Dorothy spent early spring of 1902 in anticipation of delivering twins, but unfortunately, when William Henry Price and Elizabeth Price were born on 12 March 1902, Elizabeth was stillborn, or perhaps died immediately after birth, and William died the following day. Dorothy and Porter were to have two further children while on the homestead: Rhoda Leona Price, born 17 April 1903; and Sarah Alice Price, born 1 August 1905.

After Sarah's birth, Porter and his family moved back to Scofield to allow Mary to attend school. Their only surviving son, James Willard Price, was born in Scofield 14 October 1907.

Dorothy's father, James Metcalf, was an experienced miner both in England and in Utah; one day, as he was inspecting Porter's homestead property, James discovered a vein of coal. Porter and James built a wooden trestle to be able to dump the coal cars and began to mine. James supervised the hiring of help to dig the coal and was amiable toward hiring anyone willing to work regardless of their background. Consequently, less than desirable language began to be used by the rougher element hired to work around the mine and the Price home, and Porter's children began to imitate what they were hearing. Little Mary's new swear words one day shocked her mother into taking action. Dorothy sent Mary to the cellar where Mary was to sit in

a rocking chair and remain until she decided to forsake cussing. When Dorothy thought Mary had been punished sufficiently, she went down to retrieve the child. Little Mary, however, was still rocking, steadily cussing with each sway of the rocker.

Porter's mine became a useful resource as it started to draw visitors anxious to barter for the coal. Farmers came from around Carbon County, then from as far away as Spanish Fork, Salem, and Payson. A family member recalled, "[The farmers] used to bring their vegetables, fruits, honey, hay and grain, flour, pears, peaches and french prunes. The granary was always full. Dorothy's father [James Metcalf] would take the produce to town and trade for the things they needed on the ranch."



Dorothy's long hair may have saved her from the quicksand.

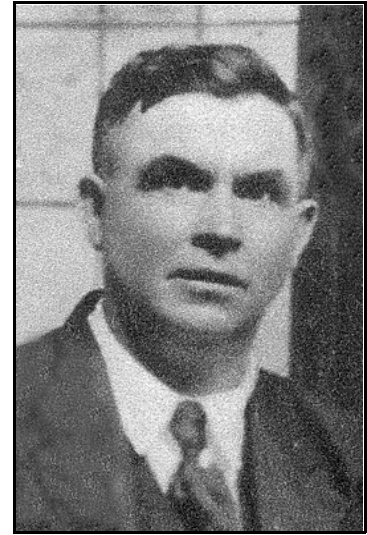
All of Porter's family loved Sundays, especially in the summertime. Friends would come to visit, and often they would go as a group to picnic and gather hops. Dorothy would use the hops to make root beer and cool it in the ice house, then they would all have Sunday dinner.

It was on a summer Sunday that Dorothy almost lost her life. While Porter was busy building a backyard swing for the children, Dorothy and a visiting friend, Lue Jensen, decided to cool off by wading in the nearby creek. Suddenly the sandy creek bottom beneath their feet began to give way and turn into quicksand. The helpless victims could feel the suction of the sand as they were being drawn relentlessly beneath the water's surface. In a panic, Dorothy shouted out

Porter's name. Porter left the swing and came running. By that time, quicksand had pulled both women almost completely under. Porter saw only Dorothy's long hair floating on the surface. He desperately grabbed a handful of Dorothy's hair and found a grip on Lue and pulled both women to safety.

In September 1908, Porter became involved in local politics. He was nominated by the local Republicans to run for election as the Scofield city constable. On election day the following November, Porter was voted into the position by a count of 112 votes to 7. On the first day of January 1909, Porter began his constable duties working under the veteran city marshal, John L. Price. (Marshal Price, though Welsh, was not a relation to Porter.) It would be only eighteen days before Porter would meet with an abrupt baptism of fire concerning his duty.

Scotfield in 1909 was a mining community beset with racial tension. Following the Winter Quarters Mine explosion in 1900, a number of Italian and Austrian immigrants were hired to work the mines. Bad blood developed between the two nationalities, frequently erupting in violence. Late one cold Saturday night, on 18 January 1909, patrons in the Dandy Saloon in Scotfield watched uneasily as five Italian miners filed through the door. A small group of Austrians were already at the bar. As the five approached the Austrians, each Italian suddenly drew a stiletto and a general brawl ensued. One of the Austrians broke a chair over one of the assailants while the other Italians slashed about indiscriminately with their knives. The Italians succeeded in wounding two or three of the Austrians and severely cut the wrist of the son of the saloon keeper.

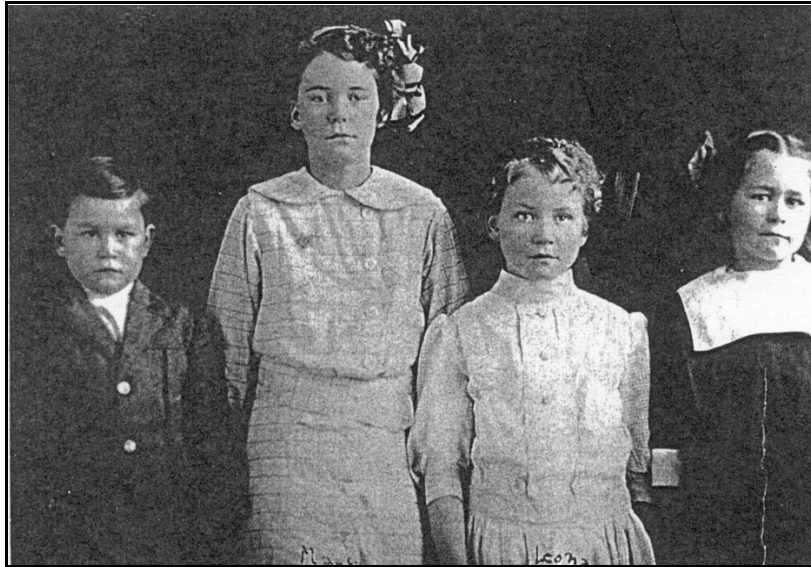


As new city marshal, Porter first had to arrest the former marshal.

After the Italians fled the saloon and the damage was assessed, the Justice of the Peace appeared on the scene. Justice Richard V. Keefer, perhaps worried that news of the brawl might provoke retaliation and create more confrontations within the town, ordered Marshal John L. Price to immediately close all the saloons in the city. Marshal Price argued against the order and adamantly refused to obey. The argument ended when the marshal, according to witnesses, “tore his badge of office from his coat and threw it to the ground.”

Without hesitating a moment, Justice Keefer handed the badge to Constable Porter Price and appointed him as the new city marshal. If Porter was daunted by the sudden promotion, he didn't show it—Marshal Porter W. Price's first action was to arrest ex-marshal John L. Price and place him in jail. Porter next jailed the two Italian brothers who were responsible for wounding the Austrians and the saloon proprietor's son, then closed every saloon in town. By that time, it was early Sunday morning, and most saloon keepers were willing to quit anyway.

Porter served as marshal *pro tem* in Scotfield throughout 1908. Fortunately, Porter was able to remain on friendly terms with nearly everyone, and the duration of his term in office was comparatively uneventful. By January 1909, however, John L. Price had reconciled with the city fathers and was again appointed city marshal. Unfortunately, Marshal John L. Price was to pass away before the end of the year. Soon after Porter's term of office ended, Dorothy Metcalf Price began showing signs of serious illness. Fatigue and headaches began to be joined with stiffness and fever. When Dorothy developed a high fever with severe vision problems, Porter was able



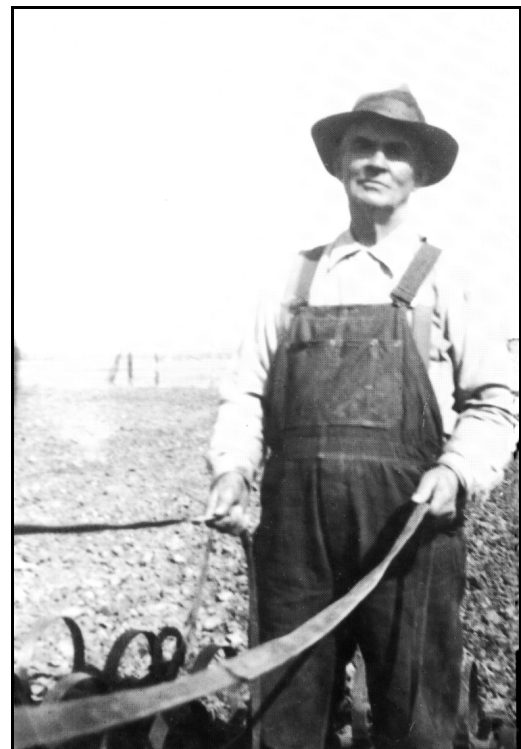
Children of Porter and Dorothy Metcalf Price: Left to right: James (“Bill”), Mary, Leona, and Alice.

to use his influence to put her on a special train and send her to LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City. Dorothy was diagnosed to have an advanced form of spinal meningitis. There was nothing that could be done, and Dorothy passed away in the hospital on 2 April 1909. She was buried 6 April 1909 in Scofield. Dorothy Ann Stonebanks Metcalf Price was thirty years old at her death.

Porter was left with five young children to raise, ranging in age from Willard (“Bill”), who was eighteen months old, to Joe, who was thirteen years old. It was not uncommon in that age for widowers with children to “farm out” the children to sympathetic families. Porter had several offers from neighbors to help in this regard, but refused. Porter hired a housekeeper named Mrs. Bishop while the children spent frequent time with their grandmother Metcalf, either at her home or Porter’s.

Porter’s household was to suddenly expand, however. As a descendant would later relate:

“One cold and stormy afternoon in January 1910, there was a knock at Porter’s door. There stood Lydia, Dorothy’s sister, and her husband, Porter’s cousin, William Henry Price, with their children—Hattie, Mary, Willis and Fame. They had come to Porter’s house uninvited. Their home in Ferron had burned down and they had no place to stay, so they came to Porter’s home. All they had was just a suitcase and a trunk.



Porter at work on the farm. Given a choice, Porter would rather ride a horse anywhere than have to follow one pulling a plow or harrow.



Porter Willard Price, with wife Mary Larsen Price, pose with their two children, Lindsey (left) and Dorothy, about 1918.

“Lydia and Will’s family arrived just before Christmas. In spite of the disaster, they had a wonderful Christmas. The children had fights and made up, so it wasn’t too bad. Sleeping was the biggest problem. Mary, Leona, Hattie, and Willis all slept in one bed. It was certainly crowded. Alice and Bill slept with Porter. Lydia, Will and Fame slept together in another bed. It was so crowded that Porter finally got tired of having so many people.”

In late March of 1913 (one source says 1911), Porter took his family and moved to Provo Bench (now Orem), near Lindon, in Utah County. Porter went to work for Heber Jex, earning \$40 a month and room and board. Porter applied most of his earnings to buy 20 to 30 acres of sagebrush-covered land from Heber Jex. With no house on the property, the family erected two tents as living quarters, one tent used as a kitchen and the other as a bedroom. Eventually, Porter added raised wooden floors for

the tents and then added to each a surrounding framework consisting half of boards and half of screens. The canvas roofs remained.

Each day, Porter would set small Billy (Willard Price) in a high chair where he could watch through the screen door, and Porter would go outside to root sagebrush stumps out of the ground. Mary, who was thirteen, acquired a tick bite and a week later became seriously ill with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Mary suffered through a siege of skin rash, stomach disorders, and severe body pains which almost took her life. Upon her recovery, Porter sent Mary to live with Dorothy’s cousin Harry Gunnell and his wife in Schofield to regain her health and attend school. Mary’s sisters Leona and Alice went with her. It seemed a lonely time to the sisters without their father and little brother.

Early that summer, Porter's brother Angus Price and his wife Lucy came to Provo Bench to spend the summer helping Porter to improve the farm. While Lucy tended Bill and did other work, Porter and Angus together built a house. When finished, the house had two rooms and an unusually high attic. Although they had shifted the kitchen facilities into the house, they found they liked the comfortable screened bedroom tent and continued to sleep in it through the summer.

When the house was ready, Heber Jex and several of Porter's fellow workers on the Jex ranch gave Porter a housewarming. In addition to showing their regard for Porter, his friends had a more covert plan for him. They made sure that one of the invited guests was thirty-eight-year old Mary Larsen Boice.

Mary was a twin, born 12 November 1874 in Fairview, Utah, the daughter of Niels Larsen (Andersen) and Marie or Maren Sorensen. She was the widow of Benjamin Boice (or Boyce), who died in 1909 while the family was living in the LDS colonies in Chihuahua, Mexico. Mary's husband had died in the same year that Dorothy Metcalf Price had passed away. After Benjamin's death,



Mary Larsen Price.

Pancho Villa had driven most of the Saints out of Mexico, and Mary had taken her five children to live with her family in Fairview. Prospects in Fairview, however, were limited, and Mary and her children had been seasonally picking berries to make ends meet. Porter's friends knew of her, and they decided to play matchmaker by bringing her to the house warming.



Porter with his son, James Willard "Billy" Price.

Porter's matchmaking friends were rewarded when Porter and Mary struck up a friendship which resulted in a marriage in Provo on 19 September 1913. Mary seemed to feel comfortable with Porter's previous marriage, and she supported Porter when he had his marriage to his deceased wife Dorothy Ann Metcalfe sealed in the LDS Manti Temple on

15 December 1913. Although records are unclear, it is probable that Porter and Mary Larsen Price also had their own marriage sealed at the same time. When their first child was born on 20 February 1915, she was named Dorothy Maud Price in memory of Porter's first wife. A second child, Charles Lindsey Price, born 22 November 1916, soon followed.



Porter W. Price's rock home in Lincoln (now renamed Pine Canyon), Utah, still stands on the southeastern edge of town.

Mary Larsen Price was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and it was perhaps her influence that encouraged Porter's continued activity in the Church. In 1915, Porter was ordained an elder in the Alpine Stake by Bishop Albert L. Cullimore of the Lindon Ward.

Porter's love for animals remained strong throughout his life. This was especially true in the case of his beloved Morgan horse, Sam (now called "Old Sam" for obvious reasons), who had been Porter's constant companion for 33 years. Old Sam, however, had grown old and weak. One day, Old



Porter W. Price (left) stands with two of his sons-in-law, Stanley Whitehouse and Hyrum Waldo Roundy. Behind, seven grandchildren sit atop Porter's favorite horse, "Old Sam."



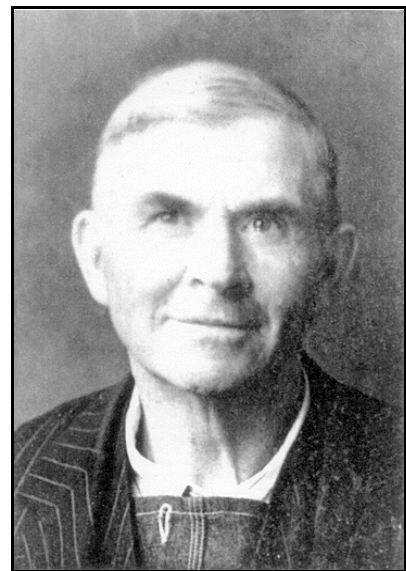
Dorothy Metcalf Price's children, probably about 1930: (left to right) James Willard Price, Rhoda Leona Price (Boyce), Sarah Alice Price (Whitehouse), Joseph Hyrum Metcalf, and Mary Ann Price (Roundy).

Porter had a view of nearly the entire valley. Downstairs in the home were a parlor, a huge kitchen, and two bedrooms. Upstairs were several bedrooms. In back was a large porch just right for doing laundry. A stream in the back yard constituted a property line, and a huge tree leaned over the stream. Porter's children and their friends would gleefully swing out over the stream clinging to an old tire dangling from the tree. Among those playing with Porter and Mary's children were Letty and Howard Van der Meyden; in keeping with the charitable custom of the times, Porter and Mary had taken in the two children when their mother died.

Porter and Mary remained active in the Lake View Ward, Tooele Utah Stake, and in 1925, Porter was

Sam wandered into neighbor Craggen's fruit orchard and began a campaign of gluttony that had the inevitable result. Neighbor Craggen discovered the foundered horse and fetched Porter to survey the dismal sight. Old Sam, now fat as a pig, lay helplessly on the ground. Both men realized that there was only one thing that could be done for the suffering and bloated animal. Porter sighed and said, "Just take care of him. When it's over, come tell me it is all right." Porter could not bring himself to end his old friend's life himself.

In 1918, Porter took a new job at International Smelter in Tooele County and moved to Lincoln, on the east side of Tooele Valley, to start another farm. Porter chose property containing a large two-story rock home just below the mouth of Pine Canyon. To the east of the property was a beautiful wooded canyon fed by a stream. To the west,



Porter passed away in 1945.

ordained to the office of high priest by John A. Bevan. Porter's son Bill (James Willard) served a mission for the LDS Church in the southern states in 1928-29, supported in large part by rent paid by family members living with Porter and Mary.

Porter worked for Industrial Smelter for several years. A siege of illness put him in the hospital, and the smelter refused to rehire him, leaving the family largely dependent upon a farm income. Porter reached back to his old experience as a constable and marshal and took the job of a night watchman on Tooele's Main Street. Within a short time, however, Porter became ill again. The family made a comfortable bed for him in the parlor of the rock house, but on early morning of 12 February 1945, a blood clot in his leg had traveled to a vital part of his body, and Porter Willard Price passed away. His wife Mary and children Leona, Alice, and Bill, were with him at the time of his passing.



Mary Larsen Price and Porter W. Price ready for church. Both were active in the Lakeview LDS Ward in the Tooele Utah Stake. Mary would survive Porter for nearly 21 years.

Porter Willard Price was buried 16 February 1945 in the Tooele Cemetery. Mary Larsen Boice (or Boyce) Price remained a widow until her death in Tooele on 21 December 1966. She was buried near Porter in the Tooele Cemetery.

Children of Porter Willard Price and (1) Dorothy Ann Metcalf

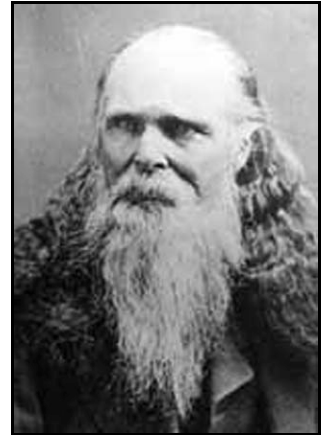
(Asterisk signifies child of Dorothy by previous union)

* **Joseph Hyrum METCALF**, born 16 September 1895, Scofield, Utah; married (1) 1918, **Estelle "Stella" ALEXANDER**; married (2) 6 July 1946, **Beryl Sylvia WITHERBEE**; died July 1971, Anderson, California. *(Joseph is believed to be the son of Dorothy Ann Metcalf and Henry Castle.)*

1. Mary Ann PRICE, born 11 May 1900, Scofield, Utah; married (1) 17 October 1917, **Hyrum Waldo ROUNDY**; married (2) 2 July 1947, **Earl Elias LOADER**; died 24 July 1975, Pleasant Grove, Utah.

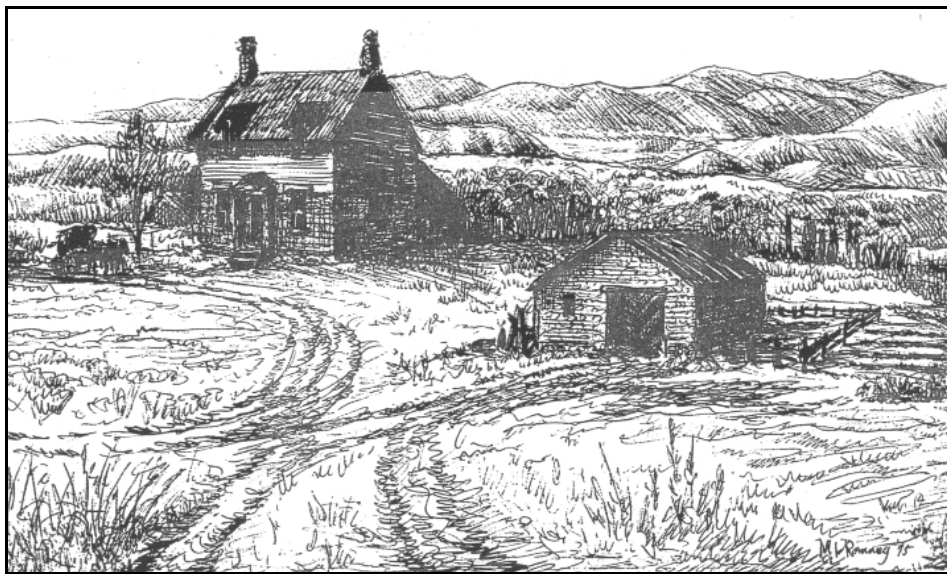
SIDEBAR: ORRIN PORTER ROCKWELL AND THE “PORTER PRICE” NAMESAKE OFFER

In 1875, Orrin Porter Rockwell’s exploits as a gunman and enforcer of the law were already legendary. Almost as legendary was his acumen as a rancher and horse trader. Porter would often buy horses and mules which had been damaged while being shipped by railroad to Utah, paying on the cheap. The best animals he would use for breeding stock, and it wasn’t long before Porter Rockwell’s horses and mules were regarded as being among the highest quality in the territory.



Ezekiel Price, had already benefitted from trading or buying from Porter Rockwell. The Welsh-English farmer and the rough frontiersman had always gotten along well. For several years, Porter and his wife had run a tavern and stagecoach station, called the Hot Springs Hotel and Brewery, located just a mile or so from Ezekiel’s property in Draper, Utah. In between horse trades, Porter, his wife, and other members of the Rockwell family frequently visited the Ezekiel Price home.

On 22 April 1875, Ezekiel Price’s wife, Rhoda Watkins Price, was about to deliver their tenth child. It is believed that Porter Rockwell happened to be visiting at the



A 1975 recreation by M. I. Romney of the stagecoach station and stable operated by Porter Rockwell in Draper, Utah. Porter sold the property to the Dunyon family of Draper prior to 1875. (*Draper Historical Society*)

Price home at about the same time. While others assisted with the delivery, Ezekiel and Porter awaited events in an adjoining room. At some point, either before or after the delivery of a healthy infant boy, Porter Rockwell made Ezekiel an enticing offer: If

Ezekiel named the new infant after Porter, Porter would give Ezekiel a fine pick from Porter's valuable and envied livestock. Ezekiel, of course, found the offer irresistible, and the child was accordingly named Porter Willard Price.

At this point, the story veers into divergent paths. There are differing opinions, even within the Price family, whether Porter Rockwell's offer was serious, or was merely a bit of whimsical good humor. Porter Rockwell was then in his 62nd year and may have already been feeling his mortality—in actual fact, he had only three more years to live. Whimsical or serious, everyone agrees that the offer was truly made—the other details, however, seem to blur depending upon which branch of the Price family one chooses to listen to.

That Porter Rockwell made the offer to trade livestock for a namesake is not doubted. What *sort* of livestock was offered, however, is not certain, nor is it definite if any animal was actually exchanged. Several family members report that Rockwell offered a good mule to Ezekiel in exchange for naming the infant and afterward



Porter Rockwell's statue now graces Rockwell Center, an industrial park located near Porter's old stagecoach stop south of Draper.

delivered the mule. Conversely, there are descendants from Porter W. Price who believe that the offer was actually a span of mules, but Porter Rockwell failed to fulfil his end of the bargain and the mules were never delivered. (This is the least popular version—hence, it may possibly be the most factual!)

The most popular version seems to have prevailed among the descendants of Porter W. Price's older brothers. Brothers James, David, and George were all alive at the time of Porter Rockwell's offer, and they seem to have been in agreement in later years that Rockwell's actual offer to Ezekiel Price included a good horse in exchange for a namesake. In this version, the horse was faithfully delivered to the Price farm by Porter Rockwell after the naming of the baby. Rightly or wrongly, this is the version which has been followed during the editing of this volume—even if the story eventually proves to be inaccurate in some facts, it still makes a delightful addition to Price family lore!