

14th

Arthur Porter, Jr.

By
Claire Jakubowski

North Elementary
Mrs. Saucedo
Becky Jakubowski
435-590-9526
beckyjakubowski@hotmail.com

Arthur Porter, Jr.

Arthur Porter, Jr. is my great-great-grandpa on my mom's side. I got to learn about him on a family trip to Rexburg, Idaho. I saw the park that was named after him. He helped make it the park it is today, and we also got to see the bookstore he built 100 years ago. He did a lot in his life.

He was born in Auckland, New Zealand on April 20, 1876. While his family was in New Zealand, his dad met a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and they were baptized. It had been his family's dream to move to Utah, but they never had a lot of money. One day his dad got a letter telling him that his dad in England had died. He left him \$2,000. This was enough money for his family to pay their debts and come to America. They even paid for another family from church to come with them. Arthur was almost 10 years old when he came to America and settled in Brigham City, Utah.

I learned a lot of stories about Arthur Porter. One of my favorites from when he was a kid is when he was dragged by a team of horses. He lost part of the middle finger on his right hand. It got infected and the doctor had to remove even more of his finger. Later in life his children and grandchildren always asked to see the stub of his finger.

Arthur was really smart, and he went to a lot of different schools for his education. In 1896 he graduated from Brigham Young College with a bachelor's degree. That same year he went on a mission for his church to Europe. He did his mission in Switzerland. He was there until 1899. They had long missions back then. He went to the University of Geneva for a short time after his mission. He got another bachelor's degree from Brigham Young College in 1902. He also went to the University of Utah for more schooling.

He married Gertrude Paul in the Logan Temple on November 7, 1900. In 1902 they moved to Rexburg, Idaho. Gertrude died after giving

birth to their third child in 1906. In 1908 he married Nelle Child who is my great-great-grandma. They would have 8 children together.

Arthur was a big supporter of education. He taught at Ricks college for 14 years. Then 10 years later he went back to teach French and German. He was also a businessman. He had a bookstore and newspaper in Rexburg. He was very active in the community and did a lot to make Rexburg better. He worked to get roads paved and the park built. He also served as mayor of Rexburg for three terms. He even ran for the state legislature and won.

Arthur is a great example of what hard work can do. He loved his family and was a good example to his children. He leaves behind a legacy to his great-great grandchildren and also to Rexburg, Idaho with all the hard work he did. I am grateful to be his great-great granddaughter.