Grandmother's maiden name was Julia Foster. She had two sisters, Adell and ______ and their father was ______ Foster who with a brother was a pioneer settler at Fort Dearborn on the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Because of its strategic location Fort Dearborn, established originally as a defensive outpost against indian attack, grww rapidly following the submission of the indians to become an important trading center and farming community eventually renamed Chicago, reputed to be an indian word for skunk cabbage.

During the Indian wars ______ Foster's brother was killed in a nassacre of settlers attempting to escape to the east and ______ Foster became the sole owner of the land they had tegether acquired. With the building of the railroads, from a small farming town, Chicago developed into a major transportation and shipping center for the whole Middle West. Not forseeing the enormous appreciation in value concurrent with the growth of Chicago of the land they inherited from their father , Adell and her sister ______, prefering more civilized socity, sold their shares to Julia and returned to their ancestral New England, Adell marrying a Bross and ______ an Adams, and became residents of New Hampshire on Elm Hill Farm near Peterboro.

Julia married Morris Porter an Episcopal minister. They went to Europe on their honeymoon before settling in Racine, Wisconsin where he had a congregation. Theretheir two sons were born, Morris the elder,

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who died in childhood, and James Foster my father. (The father of the boys) died of appendicitis when my father was five years old, and following that tragic event grandmother moved back to Chicago, where she had many friends, to devote herself to the upbringing of her son and to various charitable enterprises.

Motivated by her religious beliefs to help alkeviate the sufferings of others and to make her own sorrow more bearable she established with the aid of women friends a hospital for children of the poor. At first a simple project in a rented house where the sick would receive constant care, it soon was expanded with the financial and male support administrative assistancesofxsupportingxmenximxthexrity to a professional institution founded by Julia Foster Porter and dedicated to the memory of her oldest son as the Morris Memorial Childrens Hospital.

My father grew up receiving his early schooling in Chicago and was a young man at the time of Darwin's revolutionary theories on biological succession. With a group of contemporaries, young men and women of Chicago who were similarly influenced, he helped found the Agassiz Association, a discussion group, which met frequently to exchange ideas on current scientific theories in biology, geology and evolution. My father became a dedicated protagonist of the scientific interpretation of natural phenomena, with an unshakeble belief in causality and a fierce rejection of purpose as a driving force in the universe. Under the influence of Darwin's writings, my father professed agnosticism; in later years he disclaimed such qualified skepticism and pronounced his disbleief in a god or the need for a supernatural explanation of existance as inconsistent with a purposeless world.

Father went to Harvard where his principal studies were in Biology and he graduated in 1896. Soon after graduation he married my mother also a Chcagoan who had graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1895. Nother

- 2 -