

**David Porter's grave discovered on a remote Maine Island. No death date is indicated.**

Porter's gravestone, shared with Jean Porter, his first wife of 53 years, was recently identified decorated with a carved surround depicting an obscure marine slime mold that was the focus of his academic research. He first discovered *Labyrinthula* as an undergraduate at Yale. Through a microscope the slow gliding motion of the individual cells moving on a network of filaments held his fascination for many years of observation and research with increasingly sophisticated tools.

Born into an artistic family which included his uncles Eliot and Fairfield Porter, David followed a path of scientific exploration encouraged by parents who did not pressure him in any one direction but allowed him a wide berth of choices and experiences. Central to his intellectual development were summers spent on the Maine family island where he and his cousins explored freely the woods, the shore, and the ocean and the myriad inhabitants found there. Many were pinned or bottled in formalin.

When his parents ran away from home on their power boat on a trip circumnavigating the Eastern US, he attended Loomis School, then Yale, then the University of Washington for his PhD in mycology. There he fell in love with a lab tech down the hall. He and Jean were married when she threatened to move to Berkeley after graduating. Their first daughter, Annie, was born in Seattle.

With experience in electron microscopy and the promise of scientific publications to come, Porter and his young family came East with a year's post doc at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and another year at Harvard. When offered a faculty position at the University of Georgia in 1969, Porter accepted with a promise to Jean that they would return to the States after a few years. Wrong! Athens proved to be an attractive location both socially and academically. Their second daughter was born there in 1971. He stayed at UGA teaching and research and mentoring both undergraduate and graduate students until his retirement in 2006 when they moved to Brooklin.

Jean and David were soon immersed in the Blue Hill Peninsula community. He taught mycology classes at CoA and Eagle Hill and led many mushroom walks in the area. They were both active with Brooklin Garden Club, Colloquy Downeast, Friend Memorial Library, BHHT, IHT, Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Bagaduce Chorale and others. Sadly, Jean died rather suddenly in 2018 of pancreatic cancer.

David married the second love of his life, Jennifer Mitchell-Nevin on 2/1/21 so he wouldn't forget the date. Their life together filled a void that seemed improbable until it happened. He introduced her to opera and the woods and she introduced him to fine art in galleries and museums.