

Track 3 **Eva Owens** (d/o Letha King Wheeler, d/o Margaret Belle Brown King, Dowdy, d/o Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter)

12-20-1980 Interview with JC Porter (s/o Don, s/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) Marion, IN
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Transcribed by **Lillian Fisher**, New Castle, IN June 2013 (d/o Elmer Harris, s/o Lillie King Harris, d/o Margaret Belle King Dowdy, d/o Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew J. Porter)

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Eva Talking at start of tape

JC That's a big bit and piece right there. (Eva Laughs) I've be looking for them a long time. That's the only ones I haven't found. Now tell me more about him.

Eva Well, that's all I know.

JC Well tell, tell me again. Laughs.

Eva Well, he was a sort of a traveling musician.

JC **James Floyd Day** (s/o Martha Porter Day, d/o Andrew J. Porter)

Eva Yes, and he would come to Morehead on the bus. And he would ____ and things. I guess it was in '36'. (:29) We didn't have _____run the first time. I can't remember, but any way –

JC What did he run for?

Eva Governor

JC Oh, Ok, (Laughs)

Eva Lazy **Jim Day** that's what we called him.

JC Lazy Jim Day?

Eva Yeah, Uh huh, some (.50) old Kentucky Home up here_____ (0:53) .

JC In '30' something?

Eva Well, you can find out it was (.57)

Patty '36' maybe

Eva Maybe '30'

Patty (1:06) I don't know for sure.

JC And he came from Ironton?

Patty If I ain't mistaken he came from Portsmouth.

Eva I knew he came from Ashland way, but I didn't really know if he came from Ironton, but I know that was his name.

JC **James Floyd Day?**

Eva And I heard my grandma (**Margaret Belle Brown King Dowdy**, d/o Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew J. Porter) making spirituals about him (**1:17**), you know. _____

JC` And he was a musician?

Eva He was a musician and I don't know – did he take up a collection, did he expect people to pay him, or did he just do it for fun? I don't remember hearing that.

Patty **(1:32)**

Eva I don't remember hearing anything about a tin cup or anything like that.

JC Yeah.

Eva But any gathering that there was around, he was there picking.

JC Was he?

Eva He's been gone for years. I don't even remember how many years. **(1:48)** do you? Now wait a minute, he died on January 10th over there.

Patty He died about the time your daddy died.

Eva So, about 23 years ago then, been gone something like 20 - 25 years.

JC So about 18, I mean 1955?

Eva Maybe a little later than that.

Patty **(2:09)** I say somewhere in there, along '58'.

Eva Closer to that, anyway.

JC Where did he live, you don't know where?

Eva He must have lived in Ironton, when he was married to the _____. But I knew he came. I always had the impression that he lived in Ashland. I never knew _____.

JC Did he have any kids?

Eva That I don't know.

Patty I don't even know whether he had a family or not.

JC You don't know anything about him?

Patty No.

JC Whether family or kids?

Patty No

Eva And see grandmother (**Margaret Belle Brown King Dowdy** d/o Sena Brown Porter, d/o Andrew J. Porter) was for instance, if we were in church and if somebody happened to be there and she says well that's so & so, your cousin, and maybe that's all I'd ever hear. There's some Clines. Last I heard of, her aunt married a Cline. Well. We don't know anything much about the Cline family except so & so (**2:55**) Aunt Cline, that's --

JC Your grandma's aunt married a Cline (**2:57**)? Margaret

Eva Her aunt (**3:00**) grandma, side.

JC Your grandma's aunt on the Porter side?

Eva On the Brown's side.

JC Oh.

Eva One of grandpa Brown's (**Fleming Low Brown**, husband of Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter) sisters (**Nancy L. Brown Tabor Cline**) married a Cline (**William H. Cline**). That's (**3:10**) **Flem Brown's** sister married a Cline. Well we don't, I don't know a thing about it. I only, I just know she just say, "that's a cousin," Aunt Betty, Oscar.

JC Yeah

Eva If you ask her she'd go into details, but she didn't.

JC Your mom (**Ida Letha King Wheeler**, d/o Margaret Bell Brown, King, Dowdy, d/o Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter)

Eva No, my grandma (**Margaret Belle Brown King Dowdy**).

JC Oh

Eva If you would have asked her, yeah. But in thinking back, I didn't like the Cline children.

JC Yeah

Eva And I didn't pursue that.

JC Yeah. Well, back to this **James Floyd Day**, He was a first cousin to you grandma?.

Eva Yeah, he was a cousin.

JC That's what she told you?

Eva Well, I don't know that she said a first cousin, but she just said a cousin.

JC A cousin.

Eva Is that right?

JC Yeah. Martha Day's son (**James Floyd Day**). **Martha Day and Sena Brown** were sisters. (d/o's of Andrew Jackson Porter)

Eva That's right then.

JC He was born----

Eva Now some of the family, she didn't hear anything about. She made expressions about. Now, not bad expressions, you know, but just, you know, may not talk about it.

JC Yeah. Did she not like----

Eva I don't know, see, this is just little bitty pieces, it happened when I was a little girl.

JC Did she ever mention **James Floyd Day's** sister **Rebecca Staples**? (Children of Daniel D. Day and Martha Porter Day, d/o of Andrew Jackson Porter)

Eva Staples or Stapleton?

JC Staples.

Eva Staples. I don't remember that name. Now I know that the Stapletons, one of grandma King's (mother of **Marion King** – Margaret Belle Brown King's first husband) sisters. One of the twenty five, married a Stapleton.

JC Yeah?

Eva But that was on the King side, which would have been _____ **(4:46)**. But you know when you get right down to it and put it all together, it's peculiar how they all inter- mix.

JC Yeah, If you can get all the pieces it goes right together. Well, you never heard of this Jim Day being from Louisville?

Eva No, I never heard of that. But now, I know he went all around at times. He sort of followed the bus route and played.

JC He did

Eva He played Mt. Sterling on Court Day. He'd play up here on Court Day. He'd be in Grayson on Court Day, you know.

JC On Court Day? What's Court Day?

Eva Well, we used to years ago, when one day each month was Court Day and Court and people brought their horses in to trade and sort of jockey day, too. Everybody went to town on Court Day, that could.

JC Yeah?

Eva And of course it was always crowded around on Court Day. They even had Court Day in Olive Hill. They used to have court in Olive Hill, but I think they stopped that several years ago. I remember one year we hadn't had any snow at all, all winter, and Court Day in March was the last Monday in March at Olive Hill.

JC Uh- Huh

Eva And we lived then over on Rock Fork, **(5:59)** in the same county, 377, on up what was called Rock Fork, and people from Fleming County would come over. And right across the creek from us was a man who traded a lot. (He) had a big house (&) they'd come there and spend the night on Sunday night, get up early Monday morning go on to the Olive Hill or Morehead where ever the Court Day was. But this was Court Day in Olive Hill, (&) they drug in on Sunday evening. It was real warm and nice and hadn't snowed all year. (It was the) 21st day of March (&) next day was Court Day. **(6:28)** In the night it come a snow that was knee deep to a horse, and they didn't get to go to their Court Day. (They) had to go on back home. First one we had all year and it stayed on for a week – 1933.

JC And where do you think this **James Floyd Day**, died?

Eva I have no idea. I just know that I heard about him being dead.

JC Do you think it had something to do with Ironton, that he may have lived at Ironton, (Ohio)?

Eva Well now, Patty, (or) one, said he may have come from Ironton, but now I was under the impression he came from Ashland, (Kentucky). I know that he would ride the bus out, you know, whatever _____ he had to have, that day. Now, **(7:22)** he would, he would go on West. I just presumed that he just, you know, followed the Court Day circuit. And he stayed, now listen, the Days here in this county was relation to him. Bud Day. Bernard Day. Did you hear that name – was something that was maybe his nephews? Patty, come here a minute.

Patty Yeah?

Eva He stayed with them the night. But I remember, Bud Day was some relation to him. Cause that's where he put up when he came here and that one, you know, that lived in Elliott County. He'd go up there. What was his name? He lived longer than Bud did. The one that lived in Elliott.

Patty (8:00) Roy Day.

Eva I believe so. I believe it is.

Patty Roy (8:11)

JC Roy?

Eva He lives here in town.

Patty He's (8:14)

Eva (8:15) I'll call Roy and ask him about that, but I know in my own mind, that's where he put up at night when he was here in town.

Patty (8:33) They was some relation.

Eva (8:33) What was Bud's name, Bernard? No, that wasn't his name. What was his name?

Patty Bernard

Eva He was Circuit Court Clerk – County Clerk – here for years. (8:52) Bernard was.

Patty (8:52) here for years

Eva What was that girl's name, his daughter? Trisha, Trina? Now, what was it? I don't even remember. Isn't that awful?

JC (Laughs) Any of the Days in Bath County related to him?

Eva That I don't know. (9:12) I always thought he would go with him.

JC They lived in Bath County in 1870 – or a Martha did, I mean. But I mean, her- this guy's mom and dad.

Eva Well, I imagine they are then. (9:24) What was that one's name _____ somewhere it was up in there _____

JC There's a John Day. It was his half-brother, I think, born in 1860.

Eva Then he wouldn't of been related to the Porter's

JC No, this is John, John Day wouldn't, no.

Eva What in the world – I can see that girl and, but can't call her name. (9:55) _____

JC But you say, this Roy Day lives around here?

Eva Uh-huh **(10:00)** I thought he lived over there _____

Patty **(10:05)** I think he did. _____

Eva **(10:10)** _____

Patty **(10:12)** He was shot with a shot gun.

Eva Did you know him?

JC Who?

Eva This Day boy, uh, who shot his arm off.

JC No

Eva He's not no boy.

Patty No, he's sixty five.

Eva Yeah, I expect he is.

Patty **(10:29)** Or little older.

JC Huh?

Eva Well, I'll find out about that.

JC Maybe we can stop by his house on the way back through there?

Patty **(10:40)** I don't know where he lives.

Eva Uh, see how that thermometer says. It's cold in here. It might be turning colder. I haven't thought of them in years.

JC Well, this **James Floyd Day** in 1899, he married **Fannie Martine** in Louisville

Eva **(11:14)** Fannie Martine

JC And when this picture was taken that I've got ---Uncle **Everett (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)**, he's in the hospital at Morehead now. Now, he's your grandma's first cousin.

Eva Yeah.

JC He remembers **Floyd Day**. They called him Floyd back then. This James Floyd Day **(11:28)** and his wife and a **Roy Martine**.

Eva Well, that Roy , that sounds right too, don't it?

JC Why, does it?

Eva Well, see there's a Roy Day up here.

JC Yeah

Eva They were family members.

JC Well, I figure this **Roy Martine** was probably a little brother to her.

Eva Uh-huh.

JC To his (**James Floyd Day's**) wife –

Eva Yeah, that happens so much of the time. Now my grandmother Wheeler, when her mother died, she had two children, but she took her little baby brother and raised him with her children and (11:58) His _____ just died the other night.

JC Huh?

Eva Him and my dad grew up as brothers instead of Uncle and nephew.

JC Yeah?

Eva And Uncle Frank's kids all called Dad (**Joseph Wheeler**, father of Eva Wheeler Owens) Uncle Joe instead of being first cousins (12:14). They considered him an uncle.

JC Yeah?

Eva **(12:35)** Brothers

JC Never heard of **William Andrew Day**? He was the oldest, but, I think he must of died probably before he was twenty. They all went to the Masonic Home in Louisville to live in 1881, because Martha's husband, that was (**Daniel Day**) her husband, that died in the late 1870's.

Patty **(12:45)** That's Leroy's dad, I'd say. He lived in DeHart trailer court.

Eva I thought he lived over there.

Patty Yeah **(12:52)** _____ Johnson _____

JC What trailer court is he living in?

Patty Dehart

JC Dehart?

Patty Uh-huh, Dehart.

Eva He may not have no connection at all to em.

JC But he might give us a lead.

Eva But it might give you a lead, too.

JC And it was his dad that **Jim Day** stayed with?

Eva I think that's where he stayed when he was in this county. I believe that's where he would stay. I'm not even sure of that. It seems to be right. But he was here so much, he had to have some where to stay.

JC Yeah

Eva **(13.40)** _____

JC Well, I will go up to see **Virgie Brown** and this **Leroy Day**.

Eva And Virgie can give you a lead on the **Otis family**, know where to find them.

JC Hmm

Eva But just as soon as I can I'm going to take mother (**Ida Letha King Wheeler**) up to Arvil's because I'm sure they will have some pictures, even if they don't know who they are, mother will.

JC Now, if you can find any pictures, you know, of Sena (**Sena Porter Brown**, D/O Andrew Jackson Porter) or --

Eva Now Mother has got, uh, her grandpa's picture.

JC Flem's? (**Fleming Low Brown**, husband of Sena)

Eva Uh-huh

JC I'd like to copy it sometime, too.

Eva Ok

JC But if --

Eva I didn't go with Patty when he took her (Ida Letha Wheeler) home the other day. I was going to pick up anything she had.

JC Yeah?

Eva She's got one of **Aunt Lillie**. (D/o Sena Brown Porter, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter)

JC Yeah, I'd like, I'd like one.

Eva She's got grandma (**Margaret Belle Brown King**, d/o Sena Brown Porter, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter).

JC Yeah?

Eva And, you know, she's got several.

JC Are they when she was younger, like?

Eva Yes.

Jc Those are better. You know you can get a lot of them real old, but it's better when they were younger, like if 30's or less.

Eva Grandma would have been in her thirties and course Aunt Lillie died, young.

JC But she still had 3 kids, you said.

Eva Yeah. See, mother grew up right there with them until she was 8 or 9 years old.

JC Yeah?

Eva And she said that **Olive**, that was Uncle Tommy (**John Thomas Brown**, s/o Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter) & **Aunt Lou's (Lou King)** little girl always wanted a ring that she had.

JC Huh?

Eva And she felt so guilty when Olive died (15:10) and she just put the ring (**15:10**) on her finger.

JC Huh? Your mom did that? Huh?

Eva Uh-huh. I think Olive was a little older, maybe, than mother, but she, uh, they were together and both of them was orphans. See, (when) mom's dad died, she was two and they stayed with their grandparents a lot and they were together.

JC Yeah?

Eva And Olive wanted the ring and she wouldn't give it to her, and when she died, she felt so guilty she had it buried with it on. My mother was just five when Olive died.

JC Yeah. I'll be darned. Well, that's –

Eva That's – was Uncle Tommy and Aunt Lou, that's the only ones, their twins died, you know, a little after birth.

JC Yeah. Yeah, if when you get a chance, if you would, write all that. You sent me a little bit, but, you know, I want to get a list if I can and some addresses of (**16:05**)

Eva Now, there's **Aunt Millie's** kids, Uncle _____(16:07) and **Virgil's** kids, and Ora's kid, you know **Barbara Shepherd**.

JC Yeah, they told me about her (16:11)

Eva Well, now she's in Columbus (Ohio) (16:15) and that's the only one Ora had, and she, Ora (**Ora Dowdy Gullett**, d/o Margaret Belle Brown King Dowdy, d/o Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter) married **Bill Gullett**, which was Aunt Effie's (**Effie Brown Gullett**, d/o Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter) oldest boy. But, he'd been married before and had two children, so I'll get that down.

JC Yeah

Eva If you don't get it from **Ted (Gullett, s/o Arvil, s/o Effie Brown Gullett, d/o Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter)**

JC Ok. He sent me a little bit. I'll send you a copy of what he sent.

Eva Ok.

JC And you can fill in the blanks if there is any.

Eva Ok, I will. Ok.

JC That's what I'll do.

Eva See, there's - was **Bill**, and **Minnie (Minta)**, and **Roy**, and **Dallas, and Arvil**, and **Haskell** (Effie Brown Gullett's children)

JC Yeah. Yeah, he sent me that.

Eva Uh Huh. Well then, **Roy** died young and left three, oh, maybe five kids. Mother will know. And they then kept what was poor houses, you know.

JC Yeah.

Eva And Roy's widow took her children and went to the poor house there in Floyd (Boyd?) County, and I don't know what ever happened to them, but I could find out, I guess, by asking **Arvil**. And **Dallas** married - ah- she's a Kiger. (laughs). Well darn. Buy, anyhow, they had 3 children and one of them when he was 15, they found him dead. I guess he had sugar. Anyway, he got sick, some of them (17:30) had dinner up with people up at Colburn and I don't know whether he ever got there or whether they were set to comeback. Anyway they found him along side of the road, dead.

JC Huh

Eva And their girl, the girl got something wrong with her toe and died almost, most suddenly. I guess she, I'd say, she had sugar too. And I don't know what happened to the other girl. She did marry, I mean

she was married and had a baby. That was Dallas' three. Then Arvil's – Well, you know Ted, they had a granddaughter that had Leukemia.

JC Well, he told me about that.

Eva Well, it was in the summer times, she got hurt, she thought she had a sunburn when (18:08)
_____ got to talking, found out about her sunburn found out what it was.

JC Huh?

Eva (18:17) So, let's see, I need to think about their kids, before I can give them to you.

JC Yeah, well. Yeah, if you can give

Eva (18:27)

JC I'll sent you what he sent. If there's anything he didn't put in there, I'll let you fill in.

Eva When do you have to go back to Indiana?

JC Uh, Thursday morning. I brought my cousin down with me and dropped him off at Morehead.

Eva And who's he?

JC He's a Richmond, Gale Richmond. He's on my mom's side. He went to school here and he lives up there, close to –

Eva Well, I'm glad you came by. Would you stay down here for coffee? I'll fix some coffee, for you all.

JC Well, I don't drink coffee.

Eva How about you?

Scott Porter No.

Eva No, you don't either. Well, shoot. We're great coffee hands around here.

JC Are you? I want to take a picture of your house.

Eva Well, help yourself. Go right ahead, just so you don't get me in it.

End of Tape **(18:13)**

