

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

12-9-1980 Phone call Interview with JC Porter (s/o Don, s/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) Marion, IN

[JCPorter@indy.rr.com](mailto:JCPorter@indy.rr.com)

Transcribed by **Lillian Fisher**, New Castle, IN October 2014 (d/o Elmer Harris, d/o Lillie King Harris, d/o Margaret Belle Brown King Dowdy, d/o Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew J. Porter)

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JC Yeah

Eva And I just got real bad, just all a sudden (:13) rally up there and got sick on the way home.

JC Hmm

Eva Boy, I did get sick in a hurry.

JC Boy, that's –

Eva Well –

JC Hmm. Have you ever seen an old picture of **Andrew Porter**?

Eva I'm not sure whether I have or not. See my grandmother (**Margaret Belle Brown, King, Dowdy**, (d/o, Sena Porter Brown, d/o Andrew Jackson Porter) had some enlarged pictures in the old frames, you know.

JC Yeah

Eva But she sold out & went to Colorado.

JC Yeah

Eva And those pictures, I don't even know what become of them.

JC Huh

Eva And then she came back, she didn't stay in Colorado very long. Now I'm talking about my mommy's (**Ida Letha King Wheeler**) you know, Sena Porter's daughter.

JC Daughter Belle, yeah.

Eva Un huh, and she,uh, was just out there a couple years with one of the boys (**Clyde Dowdy**) and then she came back here and then her oldest daughter (**Ora Dowdy**) by her last husband (**Marion Dowdy**) had the pictures and they gave them, then, of course to my cousin and so that's where we are gonna go to see about the pictures.

JC Yeah. If you see any pictures you don't know who they are – send'em to me if you would, you know loan them ----

Eva Right

JC to me if you can....

Eva Right

JC and I may be able to place them with one of the other family (pictures). I've got ...

Eva Right

JC a whole bunch ....

Eva Right

JC ... different Porters

Eva Yeah

JC But I've never run across one of Andrew and his wife. (**Lucy Cornett**)

Eva Uh Huh

JC And there should be some.

Eva Yes, there should be. See that would be --- grandma's ... wait a minute, great (laughs). I'm going, I'm going -- batty. Now, I had this paper and traced it back myself, sometime.

JC It'd be your grandma's grandparents.

Eva Yeah

JC Laughs

Eva Now that'd be her grandparents,

JC Uh Huh

Eva Yeah

JC Did, did they ever talk about, uh, her grandma's parents the **Cornett's** ? (Lucy Cornett's family)?

Eva No, No, I – I just never, you know, even when she would talk about her great, her great, her grandpa's mother, ---

JC Yeah

Eva ...she never said anything about her grandma.

JC She, she never remembered her grandpa's father, though?

Eva No, evidently, that, uh, he was not around after she was, well no way, after she was born, but her grandma's her great grandma did, live with her grandpa, with my grandma's grandpa.

JC Wonder where her great grandma's buried?

Eva Haven't any idea. I don't know.

JC Huh, Well that's amazing. **Harlan Porter** (s/o Alexander Porter, s/o Andrew Jackson Porter) told me, you know, his dad Alec had a said that **Andrew (Andrew Jackson Porter)** was illegitimate. He thought he said that and that he was.

Eva Well, I just can't, I can't, you know, I don't know the only one I can go back with is almost have to be his mother and dad that, uh, Mrs. Kissinger was talking about.

JC Yeah, it sounds like it.

Eva And, uh.

JC I sure hope she's right. Cause, I've, I've searched and searched for three years now and – laughs

Eva Well now, she told me, she said it was a Dr. **Sam Porter**, (no relation) and they were old Virginians.

JC Yeah

Ea And, uh –

JC And this is all the same family that claims definite kin to **Jim Porter** (s/o Andrew Jackson Porter) that was killed?

Eva Right. Uh huh

JC That, that's amazing.

Eva Yeah

JC It's huh --that's amazing --laughs. That's amazing

Eva Now, there's **Moore's**. Now, here you know, the branching out of the younger ones. The Moore's are mixed up with the family, with the Porters family and the **Conn's** and that you know, was I guess, Uncle Jim's. Of course one of Uncle Jim's boys, you know was killed. Did you know about that?

JC Yeah. **Ed Porter**.

Eva Un Huh

JC He was killed a year later.

Eva Yeah

JC You know Jim has a daughter, this 92 years old, living (in) ---

Eva Amazing

JC Middletown, Ohio. I went and visited her. It's been almost a year ago last December...

Eva Uh Huh

JC .... And I, I was surprised. I got a real good picture (of) Jim Porter's family taken about 1903.

Eva Yeah

JC And ...

Eva See, he wasn't very old when he died.

JC No.

Eva 1907 or 08 didn't he. Wasn't that, was when he was killed?

JC 1906. He would've just have been forty five or something like that.

Eva Well, see, mother (**Letha King Wheeler** d/o Sena Brown Porter, d/o of Andrew Jackson Porter) could remember they come with the message that he was dead, but they didn't get to go to the funeral.

JC Oh, they didn't?

Eva Uh uh. Mother didn't. She was little.

JC Yeah

Eva And uh

JC Huh, did, uh –

Eva She can remember him, you know when he was killed, ...

JC Yeah

Eva ...but , uh, and Mrs. **Evans** told us that she was working for him and she said she asked if he didn't want her to get a doctor and said he said no, I'm not hurt very bad and said about 5 minutes later he said well maybe you better get a doctor. I'm hurt worse than I thought I was, and before the doctor got there he was gone. He'd bled to death internally.

JC Huh

Eva She said ...

JC Mrs. Evans said that?

Eva Uh huh, uh huh, she was working for him – she was his office girl- and I think she a, a niece from one side or the other, one way or the other, see.

JC And she was working for him?

Eva Uh huh.

JC What was his job there?

Eva He was, uh, superintendent of county schools, honey, of Carter County.

JC Oh, he was?

Eva Oh yes, didn't you know that?

JC Uh huh.

Eva Laughs. Killed right in the superintendents office. Honey, he had given the school, see, they used to go by the number of years they'd taught.

JC Yeah

Eva If I had taught two years and you'd just taught one year, then I was entitled to my, my choice of a schools over you.

JC Yeah

Eva Well, Uncle Jim gave his son, as I understand it, or his nephew, one, a school this other man thought he deserved.

JC Yeah

Eva So he had more time in than, either his son or nephew. Anyhow that's why he killed him.

JC It was his son. **Henry Kegley** killed him didn't he? Does that sound right?

Eva Kegley?

JC Yeah

Eva Well, who killed the boy? Was it **Stegall**?

**JC** **Skeens** and somebody else. **Henry Skeens** and some other boy – **Holbrook, or Stegall**, that sounds familiar. I don't know, I've, I've heard so many conflicting stories on it, you know. It's –

**Eva** Well, I'll tell you what, you come up here and I'll take you to somebody **(5:47)** on that one because I know a lady, she's **(5:50)** a relation – uh, **Flossie Thompson**.

JC Yeah

Eva Uh, **Flossie Thompson, Flossie McDaniels**, and she's distantly, distantly related to family, but, she, she remembers Uncle Jim. I think she went to school with some of his kids or something and she can straighten us out on that who killed who.

JC Yeah, uh, hold on just a second, please, ok?

Eva Yeah

JC Just a second.

Jc Ok, I'm back. I'm sorry, a friend came by.

Eva That's ok. This is going to cost you a fortune.

JC Yeah, I know. Laughs. Well, that's ok. It's worth it. This is just unbelievable.

Eva Well you know, I have a son in Korea and he calls us the first day of the month and he calls us collect.

JC Yeah

Eva He'll say Mom, I'm going to hang up, but of course we won't let him. (Eva & JC laugh.)

Eva Sometimes it costs as much as \$50.00.

JC Is that right?

Eva Yeah. (Eva and JC laugh.)

JC Well I, I'll tell you what, I'm going – will you be home the week after Christmas?

Eva As far as I know, honey.

JC Last week in December?

Eva Yeah

JC Well, I'm going try to plan to come down and visit with the relatives and I'll stop over & visit with you if that's ok.

Eva I'm about two miles out of Farmers and you might tell you where Eva Owens lives, just about ----

**JC** Well, do you know a **Virgie Brown** in Farmers?

Eva Yeah

JC Well, she's John Porter's great granddaughter.

Eva Well, yes, I know.

JC Oh, you – laughs

Eva She and mother talk every time mother comes up here.

JC Is that right?

Eva Yeah, yeah

JC Well, she never told --- I can't believe all these people all know the Browns, but they wouldn't tell me. Laughs

Eva Oh, aw

JC Laughs, yeah I've searched. It took me 2 years to find Sena Brown's family.

Eva And if you'd just have known, I could have got you back on the Browns and Porters both.

JC Yeah, I'm so amazed. Let me write down how to get to your place.

Eva Ok

JC Let's see, ok, if I'm in Farmers I think I can probably find that.

Eva Yeah, uh, you take 801, uh, south, I guess.

JC Take 801 south

Eva Wait a minute, wait a minute, north, wait a minute.

JC Laughs

Eva Wait until I get -801 back towards the \_\_\_\_\_ anybody can tell you.

JC Ok

Eva Uh - Back towards one end of it goes up to the dam, and the other end comes up on a hill where we live.

JC Ok

Eva What it is, it's two miles out of Farmers on 801.

JC I guess, when I get close people can point me there.

Eva Yeah, If you come by way of Morehead, you turn to the right when you get to Farmers on 801, and then we're on the left on the road. (A) pipeline valve there near the road and our drive way comes between those pipelines valves (08:24) up to the house.

JC Ok, I guess if I get lost I could call.

Eva Oh yeah, yeah (8:29) That's be the thing to do anyway.

JC Well, yeah, I sure hope I'll be able to come down and visit with everybody, I hope to.

Eva Uh huh, Well, now this Mrs. McDaniels can straighten us out on who killed, you know, who killed Uncle Jim's boy ...

JC Yeah

Eva ...and those kind of things.

JC Ok, Well, Mrs. Owens, it's sure been good talking to you.

Eva Oh, my **(8:50)** I'm Eva. Laughs

JC Laughs, ok, laughs, ok, I'll remember that.

Eva Oh, ok, and it's been awful good talking to you...

JC Well

Eva ...and I'll start writing down everything I can remember.

JC Yeah, anything you think of about the old family, write it down.

Eva I will, ok.

JC And, I'll plan on visiting with you in a couple of weeks.

Eva Ok, then be glad to see you.

JC Well, thanks a lot.

Eva Un huh

JC Hope you get better with ...

Eva Well, thanks, and maybe I'll get something to work on. I'll do a whole lot better.

JC Laughs, ok

Eva And it's just killing me having to sit in the house.

JC Laughs

Eva I haven't been able to drive since I came home from the hospital.

JC Yeah?

Eva And I've been, oh boy, at odds with myself.

JC Well, this will give you something to work on – think about.

Eva Thank You so much, honey.

JC Well, thank you.

Eva Un huh, bye bye.

JC We'll see you, bye, bye.

End **(9:35)**