

Ina Kegley Fetters (1896-1994) (daughter of **John Kegley** (1844-1904) & **Mary Wells**) from **Stark, KY**

15 Nov. 1981 Interview in Marion, IN with JC Porter -Track 1-side 1

[Throughout our conversation, Mrs. Kegley was mixed up on the following details. I believe the facts are: **Henry Kegley** killed **Jim Porter** (1859-1906) in 1906 in **Sandy Hook, KY**. In 1907 **John Holbrook** and **Henry Skeans** killed **Ed Porter** (1887-1907), **Jim Porter's** son in **Stark, KY**.]

Ina: So they was real good neighbors of ours.

JC: How old are you? You're 80 something?

Ina: 84

JC: You don't look it.

Ina: I'll be 85 next month. Thank You. Let me take your coat. I'll be 85 in December, so I've come a long ways.

JC: I'd say. You don't look that old.

Ina: Well thank you. Well God's been good to me. He has given me pretty good health.

JC: Ya. How long have you been up here?

Ina: We came here in **1916**.

JC: 1916?

Ina: Ya. I don't know how long it has been, 60 some years.

JC: You hadn't been married too long then had you?

Ina: NO, we married after I came here. We came in (19)16 and I was married in **21**.

JC: Oh, I see. And you came from **Stark**?

Ina: Ya, came from **Stark, Elliott County**.

JC: Were you born there?

Ina: Well, I was born in **Leadingham**, or **Beartown**. Do you know anything about **Beartown**?

JC: Ya, I've been through there.

Ina: Well I was born in **Beartown**. The post office name of it was **Leadingham**.

JC: That's pretty close to **Stark** isn't it?

Ina: Ya, not very far. My folks owned a little farm, down under the **cliffs**. I don't know if you know, have you been back there lately?

JC: Ya, some.

Ina: Ya, down under the cliffs. We moved away from there when I was 3 weeks old, and moved to **Stark** when I was 3 weeks old. I don't imagine it was more than 4 or 5 miles from where I was born to **Stark**.

JC: Ya. And you said you lived in **Jim Porter's** old house?

Ina: Ya, we lived in their old house. Ya they had a nice good house. They had more money than we had. They was better off than we were. They had this beautiful house that they lived in. An old farm house. Something like this house across the street, two story house.

JC: Did you rent from them?

JC: They just let you live in it?

Ina: No, they just let us live in it.

JC: They just let you live in it?

Ina: They just let us farm on their farm. We would raise our own corn and gardens, and had our own cow for milk. My Father died when I was 7 years old. My mother was a widow with 8 children. People was good to us. In them days a houses didn't mean nothing.

JC: What was your maiden name?

Ina: **Kegley**.

JC: You were a **Kegley**?

Ina: Uh huh.

JC: Were you related to the **Kegley** who killed **Jim Porter**?

Ina: Killed **Ed (Porter)**

JC: Was it a Kegley that killed **Ed**?

Ina: Well **Jim** was murdered at **Sandy Hook**.

JC: Are you related to **Dan Kegley**? I think he just died, he was 92 or 93?

Ina: No, they was different **Kegleys**. I knew the one that killed **Ed Porter**. I remember the day he was killed, I was just a little girl. I knew him. They were distant relatives. They wasn't close relatives. We weren't too well acquainted with them. I remember the day he was killed.

JC: I talked with a **Dan Kegley** down at Stark a couple of years ago, he was 92 then. He said he was a 2nd cousin to **Henry Kegley**. I thought **Henry Kegley** killed **Jim Porter**. Ya, I'm sure a **Kegley** killed **Jim Porter**.

Ina: It was a **Kegley**. A **Kegley** and a

JC: **Skeens**?

Ina: A **Skeens**.

JC: They were the boys that killed **Ed Porter**, right?

Ina: They was the one that killed **Ed**. A **Kegley** and a **Skeens** killed **Ed**. They shot him first. They was there in the grocery store, the post office and grocery store, a general store it was.

JC: Was that at **Stark**?

Ina: Ya, it was at **Stark**. **Post office** was at **Stark**. It was a **General Store**, it had everything. They was there in the store. They got in an argument someway there in the store. I think one of these, **Ed (Porter)** had danced with one of these men's wives. I believe was the way the story went. I wouldn't tell you that for true. I think it started over that, they was at a dance. I think he danced with one of the men's wives.

JC: And they were jealous?

Ina: They shot him, and they cut him with a knife, cut his throat. And he lived about a week. They brought him home. They didn't take him home. They took him to a family that lived right close to the store. He was there a few days, then they brought him home. Then they had a surgeon come from **Lexington**, Kentucky and operate on him, and then he died at home.

JC: Oh.

Ina: And then **Jim**, his father, was killed at **Sandy Hook**, that was the county seat of **Elliott County**. And he was killed on, I think it was election day. They only had election day and court day. They only had court every three months, or something like that, but it was something over a school election. We lived in his house. I forget which one was killed first. I believe **Jim** was killed first.

JC: Ya, I think they were killed about a year apart.

Ina: Ya, I think **Jim** was killed first.

JC: You lived in his house. Did they own two houses?

Ina: Ya.

JC: Did you live close by on the same farm with them?

Ina: Ya, it was quite a big farm. We had to go over one of those big hills. We farmed right there.

JC: 2 or 300 acres probably?

Ina: Quite a big farm, of course I was about 9 years old when we lived on their farm.(5:15) Pretty well to do people.

JC: And you were a **Kegley**. There was a lot of **Kegleys** around there.

Ina: Ya, a lot of **Kegleys**. Now this one that killed Ed was a distant relative not a close relative. I don't think they ever did know where, now we heard in later years that they went to **Texas**. The man who had the store, and the post office, lived there close to the store. She said they hunted for them right a way, they hunted for them, but the sheriff never did find them. But she told my mother, "I cold have touched them any day I wanted to." They was hid somewhere in her house I guess, the man that had

the store. Then they shipped them out I guess sometime at night probably. That was horse and buggy days you know. They probably road horses or maybe shipped them out in a box or something. Nobody ever knew how they got them out. They left the county then. (6:17) She was the one that told my mother, said "I could have touched them any day. I was there, if I wanted to." They had to have been in the house there some where's at **Stark**.

JC: I'll be darn. Well this store he was killed in, was that the store that **Jim Porter** once owned? The post office. Didn't he run that at one time?

Ina: Maybe before I can remember. I don't remember that he did, he lived there close to it at one time. Before he lived on this farm he lived there close.

JC: They say he started the **post office** there.

Ina: Well he might have. That might have been before my time.

JC: I think from 1890-92 he was the **postmaster** there. I wrote to the Archive in Washington.

Ina: Ya. I was born in 1896, so that was...I know they did live there in Stark, then they moved on to this farm.

JC: Was his farm at **Stark** also, or was it a little ways away from there?

Ina: Well, it was 3 or 4 miles I guess. I don't know, it has been so long and of course I wasn't very old then. It imagine it was 3 or 4 miles. We walked from their farm to the store, that is where we got our groceries. So I imagine it was about 3 miles.

JC: You knew his family pretty well didn't you?

Ina: Oh yes, we was very good friends.

JC: Do you remember all of his kids?

Ina: **Andy**, and of course **Ed**. I think Andy was the oldest. They had two girls. They had more girls.

JC: Do you remember **Kate**, his daughter **Kate**? She was right next to **Ed**.

Ina: **Bess**. One was **Bess**, right?

JC: There was **Kate** and **Bess**. **Kate** is still living. She is 90....

Ina: I was going to say, now she is the older one. I remembered **Bess**, but I couldn't remember **Kate**. Then they had a little girl **Sarah**, I believe.

JC: She is still living, or she was, as far as I know. I talked to her on the phone. She lives out in **Montana**. She would be about 80 I guess.

Ina: She is the younger one. She is younger than me. I'll be 85 next month. Ya, she would be younger than me. There was **Andy**. I think he was the oldest boy. I don't know just where the girls came in.

JC: I've got a picture of them. Let me show you.

Ina: Oh let's see. I wish I could see. I don't see very good. That's interesting.

JC: He we go. Here is their family. Does that look familiar? There's **Jim**, and there is his wife.

Ina: Well as I told you I was eight or nine, I was about nine when we lived on their farm.

JC: This was taken about 1902 or 1903.

Ina: Is this **Ed**?

JC: That is Andy here, and here is **Ed**.

Ina: I thought **Ed**'s face was fuller as well as I remember. He was a little on the chunky side.

JC: Ya. Now you dated **Elliott** didn't you?

Ina: Well I really didn't date him. We was in school together when we was kids, and we liked each other. I wouldn't have dared to date anybody. We couldn't date but we liked each other. And then when we moved away, we moved to **Soldier** then, and he still liked me, I think. I got a card from him and it said on the front on the post card, he wrote on the back his name and so on, but on the front it said, "Nothing finer than to be just a girl except to be the one she loved." I will always remember that, and oh I treasured that postcard. My brothers almost teased me to death about it. We really didn't date, but we like each other. We studied in school together. In them days they didn't have grade schools. It was 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th reader and that was all we had out in the country then. I will never forget, he was in the 4th reader and I was in the 3rd. And one day, he was the only one in his class, it wasn't a big

school, and he insisted on me going into the 4th reader, so I just promoted myself into the 4th reader. I just got along in the 4th reader with him. We really liked each other but we didn't date because we wasn't that old. But we liked each other.

Now I, it seems to me like **Ed** had a fuller face. This was before I knew him because, he was pretty well grown up, well not before I knew him. When they lived at **Stark**, I can just barely remember them living there. His daddy had the post office in 96, see that was the year I was born. And we lived up at **Beartown**, or **Leadingham**.

JC: Lets see, this is about 1903 or 04, cause there is Sarah right here, and they still had Charlie after that.

Ina: Now this must be **Bess**?

JC: I think it is. I have the names on the back.

Ina; Well I couldn't think of the older girl's name.

JC: They had **Lucy**, was the oldest. That is her right here.

Ina: I couldn't think of her name. I can remember Bess.

JC: **Ed, Andy**, this is **Kate**, that's **Andy** and **Bess** here.

Ina: That looks more like **Andy**, **Ed** had a fuller face it seemed to me like as well as I can remember.

JC: Ya. Then one of these is **Elliott**.

Ina: **Floyd**.

JC: This is **Elliott** right here, then **Floyd**.

Ina: Ya, this is **Floyd** and this is **Elliott** my friend (laughing).

JC: This one here is **Bill** I think. Then **Sarah**.

Ina: I can't remember him (**Bill**). Isn't that funny. I can remember all of the rest of them. I knew there was a girl older, then **Bess**, and I remember **Sarah** who was younger. Ya, this is **Floyd** and **Elliott**.

Well that is interesting.

JC: I've got another picture...

Ina: Now are the boys gone?

JC: Ya, I think the only two living are **Sarah** and **Kate**.

Ina: I never knew who **Elliott** married, but **Floyd** married a **Thompson** girl another neighbor of ours. Her name was **Thompson**. I forgot what her first name was now.

JC: I might have it here.

Ina: Well, it has been so long. I don't know who the girls married.

JC: Lets see. **Floyd** married, was it **Grace Thompson**?

Ina: **Grace Thompson**, yep. That is who it was. They lived adjoining farms, her people did.

JC: I wrote to **Elliott's** kids, some of them.

Ina: Where do they live?

JC: In Ohio, most of them. They said his real name was **John Martin Harvey Elliott Porter**.

Ina: They always called him **Elliott**.

JC: They said he had all those names, and all of his kids he never gave them any middle names, cause he hated long names. He just gave them a first name and last name.

Ina: I can just barely remember. I didn't remember them having a store and a post office, but we had probably just moved there, because we went to their house for dinner on a Sunday. They invited us to their house for dinner. I remember **Elliott** come out to meet us and he said we've got a whole dishpan full of honey. He had robbed the bees. That was about the first time I remembered Elliott. He said, "We have got a whole dishpan full of honey." They lived at **Stark** then. I had forgot about them living at **Stark** till you mentioned it. But they must have had the post office when I was too young to remember. We probably, no we didn't live at **Leadingham** then. **Jim Holbrooks** had the store when we moved there. And they moved shortly there after to the farm. But I can remember before they moved to the farm.

JC: Did they ever say where they came from before they moved to **Stark**?

Ina: No, well of course I was so small then, I wouldn't remember. We finally moved to **Soldier**, Kentucky and we kind of lost track of them after that.

JC: When was it you moved to **Soldier**. How long after **Ed** and **Jim** were killed?

Ina: Quite a while. Let's see, I was about 9 when we lived on the farm. I think I was about 13 or 14 when we moved to **Soldier**. So it was quite a little while. (14:18) We moved off of their farm and moved down closer to **Stark** on another farm. People just let us live in their house. Most of the farms had two or three houses sitting on them. Most of them just sitting empty. They would just let us into their house, and my brothers would help them on the farm, you know. We didn't pay no rent in them day. Of course as I said, my brothers would work on the farm for them.

JC: Did you ever see this old guy. He is a Bumgardner. **Granville Bumgardner**. He is a father in law to **Jim's** brother. He wasn't related to **Jim**.

Ina: **Granville Bumgardner**. I've heard that name but I didn't know him.

JC: Did your **Kegleys** come from **Virginia**?

Ina: Uh huh.

JC: **Wythe county**?

Ina: **Wythe county**, ya. My dad come from **Wythe** county. My mother didn't. My mother, I don't know where her folks...

JC: What was your mother's maiden name?

Ina: Wells. They lived at **NewFoundland**, or **Crackers Neck**. They always called it **Crackers Neck**. **New Foundland** is the Post Office.

JC: When did your dad come from **Virginia**. Any idea?

Ina: **Wythe County**.

JC: Was it in the 1850's? He wouldn't have been that old would he?

Ina: He was in the **civil war**.

JC: Oh you dad was in the civil war?

Ina: He went in the civil war when he was 16 or 17 years old, and I think that was before he come to Kentucky.

JC: Our Porters came to Kentucky right after the **civil war** and they were from **Grayson county, Virginia**. It is right next to **Wythe**. I was trying to figure out if they came by their selves or why they came to this area. If they knew these people, maybe your family.

Ina: I don't know.

JC: **Jim (Porter)** was just a boy. He would have been less than 10 years old when his family came to Kentucky.

Ina: I wouldn't know. I don't know how my dad happened to come there. He come here with another family. In them days they just traveled with horse and wagon, just farm wagons you know. And this family he come with, I don't know who they was, but this family he come with, they loaded their furniture on the wagon. When they got loaded up, this team of horses, it was more than they could, no dad had already come. This other family was coming and they loaded up their wagons and one of the neighbors give them one of their horses. Said take this horse and when you get to **Elliott County** give it to **John Kegley**. I don't know who it was. So I don't know just when Dad come now, but I think he enlisted in Virginia in the army, but I don't know when he come to Kentucky. He was a lot older than my mother. He was...

JC: He must have been pretty old when you were born...

Ina: Ya. I think he was about 20 years older than my mother. Oh I'll tell you. He was 59 when he died and I was 7 years old when he died so he was, he was 59 when he died and I was born in (18)96 .

JC: He would have been born in the 1840's then. 1844. He would have been 52 when you were born.

Ina: Ya, he was older than my mother. But I don't know why he ever come to **Kentucky** and I don't know who he stayed with when he come. He wasn't married, I don't know. He was married before he married my mother, he might have been married. I don't know. I think he enlisted when he was 16 or

17 years old. His sister didn't know him when he come home from the war. He come back to his sister's house and she didn't know him. So I don't know how long he was gone.

JC: He had grown up so much?

Ina: He had really changed. She didn't know him.

JC: I've got another picture here. Ya, here is **Ed** and **Andy**. (18:56) Excuse me.

Ina: I just came home from church.....ya they always rode horseback. I'll never forget the day, we was living on another man's farm. There was 8 of us kids and I guess we was pretty wild. We had to carry water from way down the hill, carry water from the spring. They had a gate there. He had his cattle in a field. I guess we left the gates open, maybe. Didn't know what we was doing, or just kids neglected to close it. So this man, he got mad. He come and wired the gates shut. We'd been living on his farm. Mother was a setting there crying, and **Ed (Porter)** come along riding on a horse, just like that. That was customary for people to come by your house and just stop and visit for a while. He stopped and mom told him what had happened, and he said, "Well we've got a house you can live in." And that is when we moved to their farm then. As I remember **Ed**, seems like his face was fuller. Is this **Ed**?

JC: This is **Andy** Here. This is **Ed** here. Here is **Kate** that is still living. I took that a couple years ago.

Ina: I couldn't even remember her name. I could remember **Bess** and **Sarah**, but I couldn't even remember her name. But **Ed** and **Andy** I remember them, and of course **Elliott** and **Floyd**.

JC: This is **Jim** when he was younger. This is **Jim's wife** when she was older. This is their youngest boy **Charlie**. He was born about 1904 I think. He was a policeman in **Middletown, Ohio**.

Ina: Who was this?

JC: **Charlie**, their youngest. I guess he was born in 1904.

Ina: Oh ya. **Charlie**, he was the youngest. It is funny, I can remember **Sarah** but I don't remember him. Now my older sister would remember. My brothers they would have remembered. They are older. Both my brothers are gone. Ya, the **Porters** was real good to us.

JC: **Ed** is the one who told you you could come at live at their house?

Ina: Ya, he just come by on his horse riding by. People used to do that, just stop and visit for a while. And Mom had told him what this man had done and she was just a cryin about it, and he said, "Well you can come and live at our house on our farm, and they had another farm just over one of them big hills from where they lived. They must have had quite a lot of ground.

JC: And what year was that, that you went to live at their house?

Ina: Oh let's see. I probably was about 10 I guess. I was born in (18)96.

JC: **Jim** was killed in 1906. You would have been 10 years old when he died.

Ina: No, he was killed after...

JC: You had been living there a while before he was killed hadn't you?

Ina: I believe we had. I was born in 96, and he was killed in 1906?

JC: Ya. So you would have been 10 years old when he died.

Ina: That's about right, cause we lived on their farm, so I was probably about 10 years old when we lived there. Then **Ed** was killed about a year later.

JC: Ya.

Ina: I forgot which one was killed first. Of course I was 10 years old, and that has been so many years, almost I forgot the family really. We were good friends. Of course went to the same church. There was only one church, so everybody went to the one church..

JC: That was in **Stark**?

Ina: Uhhuh.

JC: What church was that?

Ina: I think it might have been a **Methodist**, it was the only church, of course didn't cross to the other side of town much? (22:42) I think it might have been **Methodist**.

JC: Did you ever know any of **Jim's** brothers? Ever hear of any of them? One was a preacher, **Steve**

Porter.

Ina: What was his name?

JC: **Steve Porter.** He was a **Methodist preacher.** They had that **Old Fairview Church.** It is in **Elliott** county, just across from **Carter** county. Have you heard of that?

Ina: I had an Uncle that used to preach at **Fairview** every once in a while.

JC: Oh ya, who was that?

Ina: **Melvin Wells.** My mother's brother. He used to preach at **Fairview** once in a while.

JC: He probably knew **Steve Porter** then.

Ina: Ya, I expect he did.

JC: He started that church. That was **Jim's** brother.

Ina: Ya, he probably did. He has been gone several years now. He lived to be real old. I've heard of **Fairview.** I don't know if I was ever there, but I've heard of it. I probably wouldn't have known this, but since you told me, seems to me like she probably did look something like that.

JC: Ya, that is her. She was on up in years. Did she (**Lucinda Long Porter**) remarry after **Jim** died?

Ina: Not that I know of, but we moved away not too long after that. I was about 10 when we lived on the farm and I think I was 13 when we moved to **Soldier.** **Soldier** is in **Carter** county. **Enterprise** and **Soldier,** right in there.

JC: Ya.

Ina: So I don't know. That was horse and buggy days. We rode horseback most of the time. And we didn't get back to **Stark** very often. Now we go back there once in a while when we go to Kentucky. My nieces and nephews will take us out there. Well my father is buried at Stark.

JC: Oh he is? And your dad was **John Kegley**?

Ina: **John Kegley.**

JC: And your mom was...

Ina: **Mary Wells.** Her name was **Wells.**

JC: What was your first name?

Ina: **Ina.** Well this is interesting. When **Mrs. Kirkhart** told me about your mother being from **Olive Hill,** I said I wonder if it could be some of the **Porters** that we knew. Whenever I read something about **Olive Hill** I can picture just what it is like.

JC: If you had talked to my Dad, he would have never known, he didn't know any of these. of course I didn't either until I dug into it.

Ina: Well that is interesting. I think it is good to know something about your ancestors.

JC: Ya, I enjoy it.

Ina: Well they was good friends of ours. They was good to us. They was good neighbors. As I said, we was poor as Job's turkey. We would just go and stay all day at their house. Mom and us 8 kids. Of course us kids all had a ball playing together. We played ball.

JC: You did?

Ina: Ya, we played ball and all kinds of games outside just like a bunch of wild Indians.

JC: What kind of ball did they play?

Ina: Just, what did they call it, not baseball. I think they called it **Round town** then.

JC: **Round town?**

Ina: I think that is what they called it then.

JC: You passed the ball around?

Ina: You bat it.

JC: Oh you bat it?

Ina: Make a circle on the...then they would cross you out. Kind of like baseball I suppose. They called it **Round Town.**

JC: And they played it quite a bit?

Ina: Oh ya, they played it a school too.

JC: Where was the school at?

Ina: At Stark.

JC: It was at **Stark**? Who taught it, do you remember? Did **Ed** or **Andy** ever teach it?

Ina: Not that I remember of. One of the **Thompson** girls, I told you these other, not **Elliott** but....

JC: **Floyd**?

Ina: **Floyd**, he married the **Thompson** girl. But she didn't teach it. Her older sister taught our school. **Lucy Thompson** was our school teacher. She was a sister to **Floyd's wife**. What did you say her name was?

JC: **Grace Thompson**?

Ina: Ya **Grace**. **Lucy** was our teacher. Then **John Mauk** was a teacher.

JC: Did they have a special school house, or an old building, or a church?

Ina: Well, it was just one room, but it was built for a school. You didn't learn too much.

JC: You didn't?

Ina: I don't know if the teacher knew much more than the children. (27:05) I take that back. They did go to **Morehead** to school. They had a college, a **Normal College**. I suppose about what High school would be like now probably. So **Lucy** did go to college at **Morehead**. I don't know whether **John Mauk** did. His folks lived there at **Stark**, and he taught our school for a while. I can't remember the other teachers we had there.

JC: How did everybody take it when **Jim Porter** got killed?

Ina: Well I was too young and living back there in the country I didn't know too much about it, but I remember, not when **Jim** got killed, but when **Ed** got killed, I remember **Elliott** coming down the hill. We lived, you had to go up a hill then down the other side to our house. We heard Elliott coming down the hill just a screaming a cryin, and he come to tell us about **Ed** getting killed. I can't remember just when Jim got killed but when we got to talking about it, I couldn't remember which was killed first. I'm sure that everybody...I know my mother was pretty upset about it. And ____ upset about it. (28:15) The whole town was upset when **Ed** got killed.

JC: They were?

Ina: Ya. They murdered him. They shot him. Two of them jumped on him. One shot him and the other one cut him with a knife. They carried him just ____ to **Furnish**, to people named **Furnish**.

JC: Who carried him over there?

Ina: Some of the men in the store. I don't know who was in the store.

JC: Not the ones who shot him?

Ina: No, they hid out. They never did find them. They must have stayed there around Stark, because the man who owned the store, **Jim Holbrooks** owned the store. His wife told mother they was there close to her all the time they was hunting for them. They probably had them hid in the house or the attic or some wheres. The way everybody talked, they shipped them out at night someways, maybe in a box. They never knew how they got out, because everybody was up in arms watching for them you know. They never did get them. We heard in later years that they went to **Texas**. **Henry Kegley** and **Skeans** was the ones that killed him. [**John Holbrook & Henry Skeans** 1907. **Henry Kegley** killed **Jim Porter** in 1906]

JC: Some of the **Porters** went down to, I think it was **New Mexico** chasing after them.

Ina: To **New Mexico**?

JC: Ya. **Jim's** brother **John (C. Porter)**, and his son and a son in law went down after them, and they were down there for several months.

Ina: Ya, I remember **John**.

JC: You remember **John Porter**?

Ina: Just barely. I used to work where Jim...no I'm thinking about **Holbrooks**. Some of **Jim Porter's** folks went to hunt for them. I'm thinking about the man that had the store. I know Jim Porter's boy John, no or **Jim Holbrooks** had the post office and grocery.

JC: Ya, his family.

Ina: They said they went to **Texas**, so they might have went to **New Mexico**. We heard in later years after I come to **Indiana**. We would always ask about them when we would go back because my brother still lived at **Morehead**.

JC: How did you happen to come to **Indiana**?

Ina: Well we had a brother that.... (END OF TAPE 30:30)