

Telephone Interview with Jewell Shanks (daughter of Steve Porter, son of Andrew J. Porter) 10-25-1979

JC: 1-715-623-6197 (dialing)

This is Mary Bolm. B-O-L-M 244 Watson Antigo, Wisconsin

The letter was forwarded to her and she forwarded it on to Mrs. Shanks. (ringing)

Mrs. Bolm: Hello.

JC: Is this Mrs. Bolm?

Mrs. Bolm: Yes.

JC: This is JC Porter from Marion, IN.

Mrs. Bolm: Oh yes.

JC: I was told that you passed this letter on to Mrs. Shanks that I sent.

Mrs. Bolm: Yes.

JC: I got a letter from Mrs. Shanks, and I was wondering if I could call her, but they did not have her phone number listed in information.

Mrs. Bolm: It would be under Gertrude Porter.

JC: Gertrude Porter?

Mrs. Bolm: Yes.

JC: Who is that?

Mrs. Bolm: That is her sister in law that she lives with.

JC: Oh really?

Mrs. Bolm: Ya. They live together.

JC: Oh I see. And they live on Iroquois Avenue in Tuscon.

Mrs. Bolm: Ya.

JC: Who was Gertrude's husband?

Mrs. Bolm: Marvin Porter. That is Goldie's brother.

JC: Ya. Marvin is dead isn't he?

Mrs. Bolm: Uh huh.

JC: Well that is what I needed to know. Her number is in the book I imagine.

Mrs. Bolm: Yes. Uh huh.

JC: Ok. Thank you very very much.

Mrs. Bolm: Ok. Bye bye.

JC: Bye bye.

JC: 1-602-623-4139 (dialing) This is the number of Gertrude Porter. Mrs. Shanks lives with Gertrude Porter there in Tuscon. No answer 5:15 Oct. 25th. (Indiana time)

JC: 2nd attempt for Gertrude Porter & Jewell Shanks in Arizona. It is now 6:12 PM Oct. 25th, 79.

JC: This is the 3rd attempt tonight for Mrs. Shanks and Mrs. Gertrude Porter in Arizona, 6:53 PM.

Jewell Shanks: Hello.

JC: Is this Mrs. Porter?

Jewell: No. This is Mrs. Shanks, Mrs. Porter isn't here right now.

JC: Well Mrs. Shanks, this is JC Porter in Marion, IN.

Jewell: Pardon?

JC: This is JC Porter calling from Marion, IN.

Jewell: Yes!

JC: Do you remember sending me the letter the other day?

Jewell: Yes.

JC: How are you tonight?

Jewell: Well fine, how are you.

JC: Just fine. I just got your letter today and I thought I would give you a call.

Jewell: Well wonderful. I was just wondering what relation you and I are.

JC: Well have you heard of your Uncle Alexander Porter?

Jewell: Who?

JC: Your Uncle Alexander Porter.

Jewell: Andy?

JC: Let's see, your dad was Steve Porter right? (son of Andrew J. Porter)

Jewell: Yes.

JC: His brother Alick.

Jewell: Alick, yes.

JC: He was my great-great grandfather. His son Jasper was my great grandfather, and Jasper's son Everett who lives in Globe, (Kentucky) he is 75 now, he is my grandfather.

Jewell: Oh I see.

JC: Do you know him?

Jewell: Yes.

JC: Ya, he is my grandpa.

Jewell: Well I'll tell you, Uncle Alick, I don't remember any of the boys. I remember I have saw them, but I was quite young at that time. I wouldn't remember any of them, but I remember my Uncle Alick very well.

JC: You do?

Jewell: Yes.

JC: What do you remember about him?

Jewell: I just remember seeing him, and I remember having a meal one time at his house with my mother. (Emily Bumgardner Porter)

JC: Oh ya. Let's see, your mother was Emily Bumgardner, is that right?

Jewell: That's right.

JC: Could I ask you some questions about the old family?

Jewell: You sure could. Just a minute, I have the TV on, I'll turn it off.

JC: OK.

Jewell: Maybe I can hear you better. I am a little hard of hearing anyway.

JC: Ok, I'll try to talk loud, how is that?

Jewell: That's fine.

JC: What can you tell me about your grandpa Porter? (Andrew J. Porter)

Jewell: I can never remember seeing my grandfather. I know his name was Andy Porter. Wasn't his name Andy?

JC: Ya.

Jewell: But I never remember seeing him, not my grandfather nor my grandmother. They must have been dead when I was a young child, because I cannot remember ever seeing them.

JC: I think he died in 1888 and she died before that.

Jewell: Well I was born in 1894.

JC: Ya. Have you ever heard any old stories about your grandparents?

Jewell: Not too many. I have often wondered why I didn't find out more about them than what I did. You know, a child growing up, they don't think about those things until getting older.

JC: Ya, that is about right. I guess I'm kind of rare, I'm just 19 years old.

Jewell: Pardon?

JC: I said I'm kind of rare, I'm only 19 years old.

Jewell: Oh, you are only 19 now?

JC: Ya. I'm getting started in it kind of early.

Jewell: You've got time to find out.

JC: Ya, I'm really thrilled to talk with you. You are one of the few grandchildren living of Andrew Porter. Did you know that? There are only about 5 or 6 grandchildren living of Andrew Porter, Andy Porter.

Jewell: Oh is that all?

JC: Ya. Do you know of any of your other cousins that are living?

Jewell: No I don't. I know my Uncle Jim Porter, (son of Andrew J. Porter) a couple of his daughters lived in Wisconsin at one time.

JC: Oh they did?

Jewell: Yes, that was Kate & Bess. But that is the only two that I really knew. But I knew them after they were grown up and married. They lived in Wisconsin.

JC: Ya. Are they still living?

Jewell: Bess isn't. I don't know about Kate. I never kept in touch with them after they left Wisconsin.

JC: Where did they move to?

Jewell: Do you mean when they were in Wisconsin?

JC: When they left Wisconsin, did they move to Ohio?

Jewell: Bess did, but I don't know where Kate went. At that time, my brother and sister in law, they lived in Ohio and they knew Bess real well. I heard them speak of her, after she moved to Ohio, but where Kate moved, I don't know.

JC: I imagine Kate is probably dead now, don't you?

Jewell: Oh I imagine. I imagine so.

JC: Have you ever heard who your grandpa's parent's were?

Jewell: Of who?

JC: Your grandpa Andy Porter's parents. Have you ever heard anything about them?

Jewell: No I haven't. I just don't know anything, I don't know where they lived. At the time I was born, I was born in Elliott County, Kentucky. We moved to Wisconsin when I was, well we moved there in 1908.

JC: Oh you did?

Jewell: Yes.

JC: Why did you move to Wisconsin?

Jewell: Well it was my father's idea, I don't know. He just, well I had a brother living in Wisconsin and we came up during the fall of 1907 to visit my brother.

JC: Which brother was that?

Jewell: Charlie Porter. After we was here, my father decided to go back to Kentucky and sold our property. We was living in Olive Hill, Kentucky. He went back and sold the property and in the spring of 1908 we came back to Wisconsin. (11:53)

JC: Did he get in the logging business up there?

Jewell: Pardon?

JC: Did he do some logging and lumber jacking up there?

Jewell: No. My father was a minister.

JC: That was his full time occupation?

Jewell: Yes. Well he did farming. We owned a farm. Well he was an evangelist. He went different places preaching, but we lived on a farm.

JC: I see. Can you tell me anything about your dad's brothers and sisters?

Jewell: Well I know that he had, there was Uncle Jim and Uncle John and Uncle Alick and Uncle Levi. And then he had two sisters, Martha (Martha Day) and Mary. (Mary Dwelly) I think that was all the family that there were.

JC: And you don't know of any others?

Jewell: Pardon?

JC: And you don't know of any other sisters?

Jewell: No I think that is all there was. I can remember very well the two sisters visiting us. Aunt Martha I know lived in Louisville. Her husband had died and she had taken her children there and lived in the Masonic Home. I think she was a head lady there, as well as I can remember hearing it talked when I was a child. She raised her family there after her husband died. Where Aunt Mary lived, I don't know.

JC: What did Martha's husband die of?

Jewell: Pardon?

JC: What did Martha's husband die of? Do you know? Your Aunt Martha, what did her husband die from?

Jewell: I don't know. I never knew him. He was dead before I knew Aunt Martha, and I never knew her husband at all. I can only remember one time that Aunt Martha and her children visited us and Aunt Mary and her husband visited us one time.

JC: Did your Aunt Martha live in Louisville when she died?

Jewell: Well I'm sure she did. I can't be sure, but I'm sure she did. She lived her life out there at the Masonic Home.

JC: Your dad is buried in Wisconsin isn't he?

Jewell: Yes.

JC: You live in Wisconsin during the summer. Is that what you said in your letter?

Jewell: Yes, I go to Wisconsin in the summer and then I come back here in the fall. I just came back a week ago last Sunday. It was getting cold in Wisconsin and snowing so I left.

JC: I see. Well I guess it is a lot warmer down there isn't it?

Jewell: Oh it is plenty warm here.

JC: That sounds OK.

Jewell: It is pretty warm during the day, but we have nice cool nights.

JC: Have you ever heard anything about any of the family living in Ohio? Your dad and his brothers and sisters and your grandpa?

Jewell: No, no I don't. I don't know of any of them living in Ohio.

JC: OK. Did your dad live close to Jim Porter, your Uncle, at one time in Elliott County?

Jewell: In Kentucky yes, he lived, we only lived a short way from Uncle Alick.

JC: Oh you did?

Jewell: Uncle Jim lived at Stark. That was, I don't know, I imagine, 5 or 6 miles. And Uncle John lived real close, probably a couple of miles. And Uncle Levi didn't live far, they all lived close there except Uncle Jim, he lived a little farther away.

JC: I imagine that you remember going to the Porter Creek Church don't you?

Jewell: Pardon?

JC: You probably went to the Porter Creek church for church a lot didn't you?

Jewell: At Fairview?

JC: Ya.

Jewell: Yes, I can remember going there. I know my grandmother Bumgardner and grandmother and grandfather Porter are buried there.

JC: Ya. Tell me more about your dad, what kind of man was he?

Jewell: Well what do you mean?

JC: Was he a hell fire and brimstone preacher?

Jewell: A what?

JC: A hellfire and brimstone preachers?

Jewell: (laughing) He was a Methodist Preacher.

JC: He was?

Jewell: I guess you would call it, what was it, one of those hellfire and brimstone preachers. (laughing) There was a large article in the newspaper about my father two years ago, of his ministry and that. If I can get a hold of it, I'll send it to you. I've got it somewhere in Wisconsin, I wouldn't know where.

JC: Ya, if you ever find it, I'd love to see it.

Jewell: Well if I find it, I surely will.

JC: Did you know any Seacotts in Wisconsin? Their last name was Seacott.

Jewell: Parson?

JC: A James Seacott, he moved from Olive Hill to Wisconsin, up there at Antigo. Have you ever heard of that family?

Jewell: What's the name?

JC: Seracott. S-E-A-C-O-T-T

Jewell: Tom?

JC: Seacott. S-E-A-C-O-T-T

Jewell: No.

JC: You've never heard of him?

Jewell: No.

JC: I wonder who has some old pictures? Have you ever seen a picture of your grandpa Porter?
(Andrew J. Porter)

Jewell: Well I haven't got any here. I probably would in Kentucky, or I mean in Wisconsin.

JC: You mean you have a picture of your grandpa?

Jewell: No, I don't remember one single thing about my grandfather, or even seen a picture of him or my grandmother Porter.

JC: You've never seen their picture?

Jewell: I never remember seeing a picture of them.

JC: I wonder if they had an old family bible?

Jewell: That I don't know.

JC: Don't know about that either?

Jewell: No, I don't. If they did, I imagine some of the other brothers or sisters had it. My father didn't have it.

JC: Do you know what your grandpa's middle name was?

Jewell: No I don't, no I don't. I just know it was Andy Porter and I wouldn't know about the middle name.

JC: Have you ever heard anything about your grandpa stabbing someone in Olive Hill?

Jewell: About what?

JC: Did he ever stab a man in Olive Hill with a knife?

Jewell: I didn't understand you.

JC: Did he ever stab someone with a knife, your grandpa?

Jewell: My grandpa Porter?

JC: Ya.

Jewell: I don't know.

JC: I found an old record and it mentioned an Andrew Porter who was in jail for stabbing someone, but I don't think it was our Andrew Porter. I think it was a different Andrew Porter.

Jewell: Well you know, Uncle Jim Porter had an Andy. His oldest son was Andy. I'm sure it wasn't my grandfather.

JC: Why?

Jewell: What year would that have been?

JC: 1878. It was the right year, but I don't think it was him, I think it was a different one.

Jewell: That I wouldn't know.

JC: Have you ever heard that your grandpa was a preacher?

Jewell: Grandpa Porter? No, was he a preacher?

JC: I think he was. I found records they say Reverend Andrew Porter on them.

Jewell: Oh. Now that I don't know. I never heard of him being a preacher.

JC: Huh. Have you ever heard about Levi doing magic?

Jewell: Levi Porter?

JC Yah.

Jewell: No.

JC: I guess he did some magic tricks.

Jewell: Now I don't know. I knew Uncle Jim, Uncle John and Uncle Alick. I knew them real well as a child. I can't remember seeing too much of Uncle Levi. I can see him, I think he had a beard, and that is just about all I can remember of him.

JC: Ya, I guess he was in the civil war. Did you know that?

Jewell: I think he was. I think he (21:37) I had a cousin that lived at Elton, that is about 10 miles from Bryant where I lived. And she had a son, he died last summer, and he had told me that he had some pictures of Uncle Levi. And I should come over and see them. I never did go over and see them, and my cousin died last summer. I felt so bad that I never got over there and saw the pictures of Uncle Levi.

JC: Was it your cousin that had the pictures?

Jewell: My cousin had them.

JC: And she died?

Jewell: It was her son. It was Uncle Levi's grandson that had the pictures. He told me that I should come over and see them, and then last summer, my cousin told me he died.

JC: But he is still living, right?

Jewell: No. My cousin died, and then her son died too. My 2nd cousin.

JC: Oh, they both died?

Jewell: Yes. The one that had the pictures.

JC: Which cousin was that?

Jewell: That was Lule Porter.

JC: Levi's daughter Lula? (Roberts)

Jewell: Levi's daughter. That is the only one of Uncle Levi's children that I knew, and she lived in Wisconsin. That's where I knew her, was in Wisconsin.

JC: And her son that had the pictures...

Jewell: Yes, her son had the pictures.

JC: Is his wife still living?

Jewell: No, she died this last fall. I imagine if I was up there, I could find some, I know some of their children that might have the pictures.

JC: Oh you do? Do you know any of their names? Maybe I could write them a letter.

Jewell: Well, I could not tell you their last name. But if I was up there, I could find them.

JC: Ya. Well if you ever do, I'd really appreciate it. Next year when you are back up there if you get a chance to do that.

Jewell: Well I surely would.

JC: Ok. I had a few more questions for you if that is OK?

Jewell: OK

JC: Let's see. Could you give me a list of all of Steve Porter's children in order of their birth?

Jewell: I can give you them, but I'm not sure they would all be in order, but I can give you them, pretty well in order. First there was Mollie, and then Olive. Then there was Thursie T-H-U-R-S-I-E, Thursie.

JC: Was her real name Mathuza?

Jewell: Well I guess it was, I don't know. Those girls were married before I was born.

JC: OH they were?

Jewell: Yes. I was next to the youngest. Then after her was Jenny.

JC: Jenny, was that her real name?

Jewell: Virginia. But she was always called Jenny. And then Charles. And then Pearl. And then Granville French. He was always called French, but Granville French was his name.

JC: I've heard of him. Ya.

Jewell: And then Ann.

JC: Ann? Was that her real name, Ann?

Jewell: Well that is what I remember, being Ann.

JC: OK

Jewell: And then there was Lynn. And Eva. And Marvin.

JC: Marvin?

Jewell: Marvin. And Jewell, that's me, and Golda.

JC: And Golda?

Jewell: Yes.

JC: What about your sister Lucy? Which one was she? She was a year older than Olive. Was that Lucy Molly or something like that?

Jewell: Lucy? I don't remember any Lucy.

JC: I found in the census there was a sister Lucy who was just a year older than Olive. Maybe that is Molly. I don't know.

Jewell: No, there was no Lucy in our family.

JC: There wasn't?

Jewell: No.

JC: That must be a mistake or something.

Jewell: Well I did know, there was no Lucy in our family.

JC: So there were 13 kids altogether, right?

Jewell: Right.

JC: Could you tell me who each one of them married?

Jewell: Pardon?

JC: Do you know who each one of your brother's and sister's married?

Jewell: Ya, they were all married.

JC: Do you know their husband's and wife's names?

Jewell: Well, Molly's husband was Houston Flannery.

JC: OK. Go ahead.

Jewell: And Olive's was John Green. And Thursie's was Bob Jacobs. And Jenny's was John Elam. And Charles was married to Rebecca Elliott. And Pearl was married to George Fouch. And Granville French was married to Annie Fouch. Ann was married to Arthur Fouch.

JC: (laughing) Were they all brothers and sisters?

Jewell: Yes, they were. Then Lynn wasn't married. She died when she was 18 years old. Eva was married to Bud Pelfrey. Marvin was married to Gertrude Congleton.

JC: Hamilton?

Jewell: Congleton. C-O-N-G-L-E-T-O-N. And I (Jewell) was married to Earl Shanks. And Golda was married to John Jones, a brother to Joe. How did you get hold of Joe?

JC: I just called information, and took a guess. I was hoping to find some of Golda's children, and I wrote him a letter hoping maybe he would know something about her. I guess he did.

Jewell: I wondered how you got Joe's name.

JC: I just took a wild shot and got lucky. I wonder if there are children living of each of these, your nieces and nephews?

Jewell: What?

JC: Do each of your Aunt's and Uncle's (brothers and sisters) have at least one child that is living right now? Does Molly have any kids living?

Jewell: Molly has one daughter living. She lives in Grayson, Kentucky. I correspond with her.

JC: What's her name?

Jewell: Glenna Gayhart. (Gearhart)

JC: Glenna Gayhart.

Jewell: Yes.

JC: OK. Does Olive have any children living right now?

Jewell: I don't know. I haven't kept in touch with any of them. I don't know.

JC: What about any of your other Uncles and Aunts, I mean your brothers and sisters. Do they have any other children living? Like Thursie, or Jenny?

Jewell: Well the only ones I would know of, Eva has a daughter living in Wisconsin, I know her real well.

JC: What's her name?

Jewell: Lillian Olson.

JC: Olson?

Jewell: Olson. Lillian Olson.

JC: O-L-S-O-N?

Jewell: Right.

JC: And what town does she live in?

Jewell: She lives in Antigo.

JC: Ok. Can you think of any others?

Jewell: Well Marvin has two daughters. One living in Chicago, Mary Ann.

JC: What's her last name?

Jewell: Rockford. She's a teacher. R-O-C-K-F-O-R-D Rockford.

JC: Do you know her husband's name? (end of tape)