

Track 1a - **Kate Porter Jackson** (1889-1985) (daughter of **Jim Porter**, son of **Andrew J. Porter**)
Middletown, Ohio Dec. 18, 1979

JC: This is the first of 3 tapes recorded Dec. 18, 1979, in **Middletown, Ohio** with myself and **Kate Porter Jackson**, 91 year old daughter of **Jim Porter**. She is the oldest living grandchild of **Andrew Porter**. Also in this conversation is **Dale Porter**, who is the son of **Bill Porter**, who was the son of **Jim Porter**.

Dale Porter: That is your mother right there, and that is your dad. (Looking at 1904 **Jim Porter** Family picture)

Kate: That is my dad.

JC: Is that you?

Kate: No.

JC: This one?

Kate: I don't think so.

JC: You are one of em.

Kate: Well there was so many of us (laughing) I don't know.

Dale: This is Uncle **Charles (Porter)** here. Now which one would be my Dad? [**Bill Porter**]

Kate: That's **Andy (Porter)**. Your Dad ain't in there.

Dale: What about here?

Kate: I guess it is.

Dale: Well I don't know.

JC: I don't know. One or the other, either him...

Kate: The only one I know is **Andy**. That must be **Lucy**.

Dale: Which one did you say was **Sarah**, right here?

Kate: Huh?

Dale: Is **Sarah** in there?

Kate: I don't know if **Sarah** is in there or not.

Dale: Was she one of the younger girls?

Kate: **Sarah** is 15 years younger than I am.

Dale: Was she younger than Uncle **Charles**? (1:39)

Kate: I'll see you after while _____. (Speaking to someone leaving the house) Huh

Dale: She wasn't younger than Uncle **Charles** was she?

Kate: No, no, **Charles** was the baby.

Dale: Yeah.

Kate: **Charles** was the baby. Well I'll tell you, that don't look like my mother.

JC: That is your dad there isn't it?

Kate: Oh yes, I know him.

JC: Why don't you tell me about your dad?

Kate: Huh?

JC: Tell me about your dad.

Kate: Well he is one that dealt in stock. He bought stock and sold it.

JC: What kind of stock?

Kate: Well just horses and cows...

JC: Oh, livestock.

Kate: Livestock. He would buy it, drive it to the market and sell it. And then he had a farm and he farmed. And that was it.

JC: How big of a farm did he have?

Kate: Well he had a good size farm but I couldn't tell you how many acres.

JC: Was that at **Stark**, Kentucky?

Kate: Yeah.

JC: Did he run a store there?

Kate: Yeah, he had a little store and a **post office**. My mother run the **post office**.

JC: Oh she did?

Kate: Yeah.

JC: Did he own the store?

Kate: Yeah, and they owned a home there.

JC: Where was your dad born at?

Kate: I don't know.

JC: You don't know? Do you know who your grandpa was?

Kate: No. My mother was a **Long** and her folks lived at **Bowling Green**, Kentucky, but now my father, I couldn't tell you.

JC: They lived in **Bowling Green**? Well, how did your dad and mom meet then?

Kate: (laughing) I don't know. It has been so many years. Of course, my dad was born back in there somewhere, but I don't know exactly where at. And there's not many people that would know, my niece was down here a year ago wanting to trace back a lot. Now my sister that is in **Wisconsin**, I mean in **Montana**, she knows a lot of the background.

JC: She does?

Kate: Yeah.

Dale: That would be **Sarah. (Martin)**

Kate: I couldn't understand how she knew about, how she ever got my address. My sister wrote me, she had been out there.

(Phone Rings) (4:05)

Kate: Oh shoot. Tell em I'll call em back.

Dale: I'll get it for you. Hello. It's **Joyce**. Well I don't know.

Kate: My mother was born in **Bowling Green** Kentucky. My father must have been around there somewhere. I'm sure that is **Lucy** my oldest sister right here. That's **Lucy** and that is **Andy**.

JC: Which sister is this? She looks older to me.

Kate: No, this one is the oldest, I can tell. I can tell the shape of her face. Well this must be one of their fathers.

JC: Do you know who this is?

Kate: No.

JC: That is **Granville Bumgardner**. Do you remember him?

Kate: Well.

JC: **Granville Bumgardner**.

Kate: I can't remember him, but when you mentioned the name it kind of sounds familiar.

JC: I want you to think real hard for me and try to recall some of these.

Kate: Well, it is just hard to do when you...

JC: Do you remember anything about any of your dad's brothers? Let me show you...

Kate: No, I didn't know whether he had brothers or not. I've heard him talk about some of his nieces and nephews growing up in a home, an orphan's home. That is all I ever heard him talk about.

JC: Didn't you ever go visit any of your uncles?

Kate: No.

JC: Do any of these men look familiar?

Kate: Let me turn on a light. I don't see very good and I don't hear too good. I'm 91 years old.

JC: Yeah. Here is your dad right here. (Looking at 1901 five Porter brothers' picture)

Kate: Oh yes, I know him. And that is Uncle **John (Porter)**, I think.

JC: Well, see, you know one of his brothers. (laughing)

Kate: I don't know.

JC: You said, "That is Uncle **John**."

Kate: Yeah. Let's see, where is Uncle **Steve (Porter)**? That looks like Uncle **Levi (Porter)**.

JC: Here is Uncle **Levi**.

Kate: Yeah. Well now who is this?

JC: That is Uncle Alick. **Alexander (Porter)**.

Kate: I was gonna say, it wasn't my brother **Elliott**.

JC: **Alexander Porter**. They called him Alick for short.

Kate: I never heard of him.

JC: You haven't? Well he is your dad's brother. He was my great-great grandpa.

Kate: For goodness sakes (6:30)

JC: There is your Uncle **Steve Porter**.

Kate: I was gonna say, that is Uncle **Steve**. I'd know him. He was a preacher, and Uncle **John** was a preacher. I don't know who that big woman is.

JC: That is your Aunt **Mary Dwelly**. You ever hear of her? **Mary Dwelly**. She lived in **Robertson County**, Kentucky.

Kate: Huh uh.

JC: This is **Martha Day**, your aunt. She is the one who lived in the old home you were talking about, the **orphan's home**, her and her children.

Kate: She is?

JC: She did. She is dead now.

Kate: Well now she is the one that had the children in the orphan's home huh?

JC: Yeah.

Kate: Well I have heard my father talk about them. There was a boy and a girl, and they were raised in the orphan's home. He said they had a wonderful education. Very mannerly. I've just heard him talk

about that now, and that is all. Oh, that is Uncle **Steve**. He looks like he did years ago. Of course, that was taken years ago.

JC: Yeah. I'd say that was taken about 1901. You don't remember your Uncle **Alick**?

Kate: No. Huh uh.

JC: (7:48) **Steve** (s/o Andrew J. Porter) lived pretty close to you didn't he?

Kate: Well he lived about 12 miles from our home.

JC: 12 miles?

Kate: Uh huh. We would go out there. Me and my sister used to walk, take off on Friday evening, and walk out there, and walk back home. I was scared of thunder and lightning, and she would just run me to death. We would run until we just couldn't run any longer. My sister **Bess** was always full of life.

JC: She was?

Kate: Ya, she was just full of life. She was always trying to get a laugh. She'd go to school. She would get around with her and her girlfriend. They would get on the outside and catch some of the men sitting in the windows with their rear ends sticking out. They would go around and stick hat pins under them. They would jump and scream. They got the biggest kick out of that. My sister **Bess** was full of life. (8:50)

JC: Which one is **Bess** in this picture? Do you recognize her?

Kate: Let me look at it a minute. No, **Bess** is not there.

JC: Is one of these girls right here you, one of those two?

Kate: I need to have them all in rotation, and I could name them in rotation. There was **Lucy** was the oldest, and **Andy** was next. **Lucy** and **Andy** and **Ed**, and **Elliott**, **Bill** and **Charles**. Well I have forgot now, I did have them all in rotation. I wrote to sister **Sarah** and asked her, and I had em all just perfect, only one. I had one that wasn't exactly what it was supposed to be.

JC: **Sarah** told you how they were in order?

Kate: She knows.

JC: How does she know all of that? She is much younger than you.

Kate: Well, she is younger. She is 15 years younger than I am. She stayed at home after we was all married and gone. She stayed at home with my mother. She would never leave her.

JC: And your mother told her a lot?

Kate: Now that is **Elliott** my brother who lived over here at **Springfield** when he died.

JC: No, that is **Ed**.

Kate: **Ed**?

JC: See that was before he was killed.

Kate: Well he looks a whole lot like **Elliott**. And that looks like **Andy** did when he died.

JC: That is **Andy**.

Kate: I know that.

JC: One of these little boys on either end is **Elliott** and the other one is **Bill**.

Kate: Well this must be **Bill**. That don't look like **Elliott**. And who do you think this one is?

JC: That one is **Charlie**.

Dale: Doesn't he look like **Steve** used to look like when he was younger?

Kate: No, I can't say that he does.

JC: I've got all of your brothers and sisters in order here.

Kate: Have you? (11:00)

JC: **Lucy, Andy, Ed**, then you, then **Bess, Floyd**.....

Kate: **Lucy**, then **Andy** then **Ed**?

JC: Then you. Then **Bess, Floyd, Elliott, Bill, Sarah** and **Charles**.

Kate: This must be me here then. I don't know.

JC: I thought that was probably you.

Kate: Well it must be.

JC: I told my cousin you were the prettiest one in the bunch.

Kate: Well thank you. (laughing) (11:26) Well I had the neighbor _____pretty girl anyway when I was young.

JC: Oh he did?

Kate: You would never know it now, but I was when I was young.

JC: When did your family move up here?

Kate: Oh, let's see. My mother and my two brothers moved up here when I was living in **Maple Park**.

JC: You were already married?

Kate: Oh yes. And they come and stayed with me till they could get a place. I don't know how many years ago that has been.

JC: **Maple Park**? Is that up here?

Kate: Yes, it is just up north of here a little way.

JC: So you were the first one of your family that came up here?

Kate: Yeah.

JC: Why did you come up here?

Kate: Well, cause my husband didn't have no work back there.

JC: He came here to find a job.

Kate: Well, he come here and got a job at Raycycle? first, then he went from the _____ cycle to the rolling mill and worked 5 years at the rolling mill. (12:27) He had to retire, and he retired after 35 years and I didn't get a thing. Now they come out and give these new ones everything. They pay part of their doctor bills and their teeth. The wives get insurance, and it ain't fair. I hate Armco. I do, I hate em. It's not right, a man goes there and spend his life. He was head, he couldn't go no higher. The man was, he was over his men. He was the first ladle. You know what that is.

Dale: Yeah. (13:09)

Kate: And he couldn't go no higher and worked there 35 years and had to retire and I got nothing. And my daughter's husband worked there 20 years and when he retired, they told her she would get a pension, but she never got it. The book she had there, well they told me that I would. He said let's see your book. She went upstairs and got her book. She keeps everything and I don't. Said, "Well things have changed." She didn't get nothing either. I don't think it is fair a man go over there and spend 35 or 40 years and not get nothing. It ain't right, and they worked hard. These men out here don't work. They just push the buttons. They don't, they don't work hard out there. You know that is the truth.

Dale: Yeah, I know.

Kate: They press them electric buttons, and it does the work. My man would come home with his clothes just burnt off of him. Where they would pour that hot metal in there. Splash up on him. He could put on a new shirt, come home and it was like they had been shot with buckshot. I said I hate Armco. I will, I'll hate em as long as I live.

JC: Did you talk your mom and brothers into coming up here? (14:26)

Kate: No, I didn't talk em into comin. They just come here to get work. They had been up to **Springfield** a working, where **Bill & Sarah** lived. That was mom's brother, he's dead.

JC: **Springfield, Ohio**

Kate: Yeah. They was working on a farm. They liked it. They went back home then they moved up here. **Bill & Charles** and **Sarah** stayed home longer than anybody else. Now when they come here, they come and lived with me. In fact, every one of my brothers and sisters has lived with me at some time except **Andy** and one other. Everyone of my brothers and sisters has lived with me at some time. And I said I kept em all, but none of them ever offered me a home. When my husband died, I wasn't offered a home. Well, my daughter offered me a home. My brothers and sisters, none of them ever offered me a home.

His dad did. (Speaking to **Dale** about his dad **Bill**). Before he died, **Jack** went to see him one day and he was up in the bathroom a crying, and he said, "**Bill**, what is the matter?" He said, "Well **Jack**, I know that

we are not paying,” You was with him. (speaking to **Dale**). He said, “I know we are not a paying what we ought to pay.” He said, “I feel bad about it.” And **Jack** said, “No, don’t you let that worry you one minute.” He said, “If I live, I will make it up to you someday.” That is what your dad said.

I loved everyone of my brothers and sisters. I got mad at my baby brother one time. I would have killed him if I had a gun. I actually could, because he arrested **Dale’s** daddy. I would just as soon as he arrested me as arrested him. Cause his daddy was my favorite among em all, and then my sister **Bess** that died.

Lord, Uncle **Steve** looks good there.

Dale: Does that bring back a lot of memories? (16:27)

Kate: Oh yes. I laid in there the other night and I went back to the time I was a young girl, trying to think things over you know. My mind ain’t that good. I can’t remember much anymore. I don’t see too good. I was just reading a piece there in the paper about...Of course the doctor of the eyes told me he could never help me any. He said it is a milk clot? that forms, I don’t have no cataracts, but it is a milk clot? that forms over my eyes. There is a piece in the paper tonight about what the doctor said. He said there was nothing they could do for it. He said you’ll have spots in your eyes. Well, I’ve always had them. I went down for some glasses, and he said, “I can’t improve you. I can’t help you one bit.” So there was no need in having them made. But I see enough to get around and do what I have to do.

Well, I’ll say you are a fine looking **Porter**. (laughing)

JC: Why don’t you tell me some more about, have you ever seen pictures of your grandpa (**Andrew Porter**)? (17:35)

Kate: No. Huh uh.

JC: You never saw a picture?

Kate: No. Now since you named this one, what did you say is name was?

JC: That is **Granville Bumgardner**.

Kate: Well, he used to come to our house a lot.

JC: He did?

Kate: Yeah.

JC: Why?

Kate: Well, I don’t know why. He just liked my dad and mother ____ is all I know.

JC: He did?

Kate: But he would come and stay there for days at a time.

JC: You don’t remember when that picture was taken do you?

Kate: No, I sure don’t.

JC: I'd say that wasn't more than a year or two before your dad was killed. Cause **Charlie** looks like he is 4 or 5 years old maybe?

Dale: How old was your dad when he got killed Aunt **Kate**?

Kate: That I can't tell you. It has been so many years. I don't remember how many years he has been dead.

JC: He was born in 1859 and he died in 1906.

Kate: 1906.

Dale: He wasn't very old then, 47.

Kate: How did you get all of that?

JC: I've been working on it for a couple years. I'm tracing all of the family of your grandpa. (**Andrew J Porter** 1822-1888) He had 5 sons and 6 daughters. Here is all 5 of his sons and 2 of his 6 daughters in this picture.

Kate: Uncle **Steve** and Uncle **John**. _____ You say that is Uncle **Levi**.

JC: You have heard of Uncle **Levi**?

Kate: Yeah.

JC: He was a mean one, wasn't he?

Kate: What?

JC: A mean guy?

Kate: I don't know whether he was or not. (laughing) I'm not going to say because I don't know. (laughing) (19:26) Uncle **Steve** was a good old man. Oh, there wasn't a better man on earth than Uncle **Steve Porter**. Uncle **John**, he was a good man. They were both preachers.

JC: Yeah.

Kate: I never thought he was as good to his family as he ought to have been, but Uncle Steve was.

JC: He was? (19:46)

Kate: Oh, **Steve** was good to his family and good to everybody. But Uncle **John**, he could have been a lot better. Now this looks like **Floyd** to me.

JC: That's **Floyd** there?

Kate: Is it?

JC: I don't know.

Kate: I think that is **Floyd**, and that is **Elliott**. And that is **Charles**. That must be **Sarah**.

JC: Yeah. Well now where is **Bill** at then? Cause one of the boys isn't in this picture. They had 6 boys and there is only 5 in the picture. Somebody is not there that day.

Kate: **Andy** is, it might have been **Ed**?

JC: Well, see this guy you can tell by looking, he is about as old as **Andy**, just about.

Kate: Wouldn't you say he is **Ed**?

JC: Yeah, I thought he was **Ed** because he is as old as **Andy**.

Kate: Well, there wasn't too much difference in their ages.

JC: No, they were just ...

Kate: He taught school; **Ed** did. He was away a lot.

JC: He was?

Kate: Yeah. So it might have been when that was taken that he was away. (21:04) But I know that is **Lucy** and I know that is **Andy**. I imagine that is me, but I don't know.

JC: Well, you probably remember what you looked like don't you?

Kate: No. I've got a picture here; I don't know if I've got it or not. It looked like me when I was younger. My boy used to carry it in his billfold. It is by my phone. I don't know where his billfold is. It is somewhere.

JC: Do you have any pictures of your dad?

Kate: Yeah.

JC: Do you?

Kate: I've got a picture of my mother and dad both. I'll show em to you.

Dale: I've never seen them myself.

JC: Is that right? (21:54)

Dale: It looks like somebody has been through that wallet, doesn't it? (22:17)

Kate: Well, I don't know where it is. He always carried my picture in his wallet. I don't see it. Maybe it is here.

Kate _____ (Looking for pictures) (22:56)

Dale: I'm sure I don't know.

Kate: Well, he did carry it in his wallet. I'll show you my mother and dad's picture. **I've got a lot of pictures in there.** I keep trying to give them away cause I know I ain't going to live much longer. I wanted the girls to take them and do something with them. They just said, "Oh well, sometime."

Dale: If they decide they don't want them I'd like to have them.

Kate: _____

Dale: She probably has a lot of pictures I haven't even seen.

Kate: There is dad. (24:07)

Dale: That is the first time I have ever seen that.

Kate: That is my mother.

Dale: I remember her.

JC: How old was your mom when she died?

Kate: She was, they told me she was....

Dale: 88, wasn't she?

Kate: No. No.

Dale: 82?

Kate: They said she was 83, but I know better. She was 82 when she died. Let's see.

JC: Was your dad pretty young in this picture?

Kate: Well, that was taken not too awful long...that's (24:56) Now that is me when I was young, with my baby, baby boy. Here is a picture of him not too many years ago. Kind of got a funny grin on him there. Oh that is my mother. I was looking for it. You've got it.

JC: When did your mom die?

Dale: (19)48. Uncle **Charles**, my dad and my grandmother all died in 48.

JC: They did?

Dale: Uh huh.

Kate: Well, I don't remember that.

Dale: Uncle **Charles** died in March of 48.

JC: Where are they buried at, **Woodside**?

Dale: Yeah, all out there at **Woodside Cemetery**. My dad is in back of my uncle and grandmother.

Kate: I was supposed to have a picture of my sister **Bess** in here somewhere. I won't find my sisters picture I don't reckon. I reckon they are around here somewhere. My father was a good lookin man. Better lookin than that picture is.

JC: I keep looking at this. They don't look very much alike, these two.

Kate: Well, that is who they are. (26:59)

Dale: That hat on there probably distorts it.

Kate: Yeah, that hat makes him look different. Well, I know it is him. I do know that much.

Dale: This looks completely different.

JC: Yeah.

Dale: Actually, this looks like a younger picture.

Kate: Well, it is younger I guess.

Dale: Cause he looks like maybe in his 20's, 30's there?

Kate: He is more than his 20's.

Dale: Well 30's. And here he is probably around 45 I would imagine.

JC: Yeah. In this one I'd say he is about 40.

Kate: Well, it looks like I'm not going to find my sisters picture, but I know I've got it.

JC: You say your mom was from down around **Bowling Green**?

Kate: Yeah. (28:34)

JC: What was her dad's name, do you know?

Kate: Well, she was a **Long**, my mother was.

JC: Yeah.

Kate: But I don't know his first name.

JC: You don't? Never saw him?

Kate: No. I never saw none of them.

JC: Your grandpa's name was **Andrew Porter**, your dad's dad.

Kate: Huh?

JC: Your grandpa was **Andrew Porter**. Have you ever heard that name?

Kate: No.

JC: Your brother was named after him, I guess.

Kate: Well, I guess according to that, but I don't remember.

JC: You never heard them mention his name?

Kate: Huh uh. Well, you know years ago they just never...now my sister could tell you a lot more than I can, she was home a long time and she was trying to get the record. When I wrote to my sister I said I wanted to know how she got all of that information. She said she was at your house (Dale's house) and you couldn't give her none, and she wrote to me and so she gave her a lot of information.

JC: Do you have her address here? I don't want you to get it right now.

Kate: Yeah, I've got it. Well, it looks like I ain't going to find my sisters picture, but I know I've got it. That is my sister **Sarah** in **Montana**. That's the baby. Well, she is not the baby, **Charles** is the baby. She was

next to him. Well, I've always kept **Bess's** picture, but I sure don't see it. But she could give you quite a bit of information, my sister can, in **Montana**. She stayed at home with my mother when everybody else left her.

END OF TAPE (30:46)