

March 29, 1980 **Niles Ohio** (Track 1)

Viola Bego (daughter of **Ed Porter**, s/o **Levi Porter**, s/o **Andrew J. Porter**)

First 3 minutes 45 seconds: Conversation with **Arney Porter** and **Doris Tackett** (children of Everett Porter, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) Also **Viola Bego** and her son **Earsel Porter**. (All talking at the same time)

Viola: Here, can you sit it on the table there?

JC: Ya, that will be fine.

Arney: So you get em from my brother Eddie?

Earsel: Ya. I've got two tires over here now that I've put 60 or 70,000 miles on, and they was recaps.

Doris: How many years have you lived up here in Ohio?

Viola: Oh I've been here 8 years. (Niles, OH?)

Doris: ?

Viola: No, I come here from Mansfield. (0:33) _____?

JC: (0:44) So you're **Ed Porter's** daughter?

Viola: Ya.

JC: He is my great grandpa's (**Jasper Porter**) first cousin.

Viola: Ya.

JC: You remember him?

Viola: Ya, I remember him. Which one was it that got killed in the quarry? **Millard (Porter)**? (1:01) They were brothers wasn't they?

JC: Ya.

Viola: My daddy worked with him.

JC: I wonder if that tape recorder will reach from over there?

Earsel: He's a Porter too?

JC: Ya, I'm JC Porter. My dad is **Don Porter**.

Earsel: Well me and this feller are Porter's too.

JC: He's my Uncle. (Referring to **Arney Porter**)

Doris: I used to be a Porter. I'm Everett's girl. (1:26)

Viola: **Everett Porter's** girl? (1:29)

Doris: I married into the Tackett family down there in **Globe (KY)**.

Viola: Ya.

Doris: I've been up here about 27 years.

Viola: Moved to Mansfield (OH) in 49.

Doris: I come in 53.

Arney: (1:26) We are probably some kin then.

Earsel: ...**Ed Porter**.

Arney: You mean the one at Globe?

Earsel: Ya Globe.

Arney: That's my brother. He's in the tire business.

Earsel: Oh Jas' boy.

Arney: Jas is my grandfather. My dad is Jas' boy.

JC: Jas is his grandpa.

Earsel: What's your dad's name?

Arney: Everett.

Earsel: Everett?

Arney: Ya.

Earsel: Well there is a **Big Everett** and **Little Everett** (2:00)

Viola: Ya.

Earsel: Your dad is Little Everett?

Arney: Ya.

Earsel: Well this one over at Enterprise (KY).

Arney: That's his Uncle.

Earsel: Edward Porter's boy. They say they look a lot alike.

Arney: Ya, he's pretty bad. _____ (2:10)

Earsel: He used to live up on **Porter Creek**. That is where I lived.

Arney: That's my dad's Uncle.

Earsel: You ever run onto John up here? (2:30) _____ You live here now? (2:46)

Arney: Ya, I've lived here since 55. I have a little church over there on Butler.

JC: I wish I could bring that tape recorder over here.

Viola: I will have to move this couch out

Doris: Is there a plug behind here?

Viola: We could go in the kitchen.

JC: Do you want to go in there? Would that be OK?

Arney: He is working up that family tree. He wants to get all of that information.

JC: Ya, I will just set this, it will reach over here.

Doris: I smell beans, I had beans for supper too.

JC: I'll sit back here.

Viola: I'll sit right here.

JC: OK.

Viola: I could set that table out and make better ways in there. Can't hardly...

(timer 3:45)

JC: When was your dad (**Ed Porter**) born?

Viola: Now I don't know that.

JC: Was it about 1870 or 1869?

Viola: I guess it was. The home Bible with all their names and ages got burned up. And I just know the year I was born, and that is about all.

JC: It burned up? At someone's house?

Viola: Yes, at **George Porter's** house, down in Kentucky. That's my brother. After my father died you know.

JC: This is your son **Earsel (Porter)**? (There in the same room)

Viola: Ya, that's my boy from before I was married. Ain't no use lying about it.

Doris Tackett: I thought he died. Wasn't there an **Earsel Porter** that died?

Viola: That was **Uncle Bob's Earsel (Porter)** in Wisconsin died.

Doris: When **Erma (Lewis)** told me that you had a boy **Earsel Porter**, I thought that was the one that had died.

Viola: No, **Earl Porter**, my brother died here a while back. In December, and my daughter died a week later, after that. I took care of her last summer. I was up there taking care of her when she got sick. I waited on her a year down here. She wanted me to go to the funeral. I didn't want to go, but she said yes, you've got to go. Well I started, and I asked her if she wanted me to bring her back anything, and she said, "Yes, bring her back some cigarettes". We got ready, had our clothes in the truck to come back, and we got the news that she was dead. She died while I was down there, so I just stayed down there and never come back.

Doris: What was her name?

Viola: Cline. She married **Ralph Cline**.

Doris: Oh I saw that in the paper. Up here in the paper.

Viola: Ya, she lived right up here on the corner in that brown house on the right as you go up there.

Doris: And I saw something about a Porter, and I thought well, that's probably no relative.

Viola: Ya that was my daughter. My oldest daughter.

Doris: That's too bad.

JC: I got a letter from your granddaughter **Geraldine**. That is his daughter. The same day I got your letter. I didn't realize that you were her grandmother. She was trying to explain to me how it all tied together, and then she said **Viola Bego**, then I realized.

Viola: Ya. I can't see to even read, print at all. It has to be real big. (6:02)

JC: What can you tell me about your grandpa **Levi (Porter, son of Andrew J. Porter)**?

Viola: Well, I don't know of anything that you would be interested in.

JC: Well anything would be.

Viola: We used to go there a lot when I was little. It used to tickle us to death to get to go over there. He (**Levi Porter**) was so nice and good turned, but my grandmother (**Betty Lundy Porter**); she wouldn't let us call her grandma. We had to call her Nanny. She wouldn't let us call her grandma.

JC: Why is that?

Viola: She never cared nothing about kids. No kind. (6:30)

JC: She didn't?

Viola: No, she didn't like it when grandpa ____ children ever was. (6:35) He was so good to us you know. When I was home there, when my daughter, or my sister died. I was taking care of her, and grandma was bad off sick, and they wanted me to come over there. So finally, at the last, my daughter (sister?) said, "Well you go over there. They are able to pay you. You go over and stay with them, and if I get worse, I send after you." I said, "Alright." I stayed there a long time.

JC: How long after your grandpa died, did your grandma die?

Viola: Oh I don't know.

JC: Was it a couple years?

Viola: Oh, I don't think it was that long. She stayed there with my mother. My grandpa (Levi) did too, when he died. But I wasn't in that country then. I was away from there. My mother took care of both of them.

JC: Ever hear anything about your grandma being married before she married your grandpa?

Viola: No. Never did hear a thing.

JC: And you never heard about your dad (**Ed Porter**) being born in Ohio?

Viola: No, I never heard that. (laughing)

JC: I know I asked **Don Porter** (son of Bob, son of Levi) I mentioned it in the letter that I wrote to you. In the 1880 census, your dad was 10 years old, and it said he was born in Ohio, and all the rest of the kids (his brothers and sisters) were born in Kentucky.

Viola: Ya?

JC: Ya, but in the 1900 census, it said that your dad was born in Kentucky. So either he didn't know he was born in Ohio, or it was a mistake.

Viola: He must not have known it. I've never heard about that.

JC: I had heard the Porters may have been in Ohio for a while.

Viola: I had never heard that until I seen it in your letter. About him being born in Ohio.

JC: How many of your dad's sister have you heard of?

Viola? He just had one?

JC: Just **Lula (Roberts)**?

Viola: Uh huh.

JC: You've never heard of **Laura or Ruth**?

Viola: No, never heard of them.

Doris: Were they older than her dad?

JC: No, her dad was the oldest. Well, I think there may have been two more born before your dad. Your grandpa was married in 1863, and your dad wasn't born until almost 1870. And your grandma, in the 1900 census said she was the mother of 11 children, but only 7 were living. And these two daughters **Ruth and Laura** must have already died.

Viola: I never know'd of none of them but **Aunt Lula**. The only one that they ever said anything to me about was her.

JC: Well I guess they didn't have to be girls. They could have been baby boys.

Viola: Ya, I don't know.

JC: What have you heard about your grandpa's dad (**Andrew Porter**)?

Viola: Well, I never did hear nothing about them hardly. After I got big enough to remember anything, they never did talk to me anything about it.

JC: Did you ever see a picture of your great grandpa Porter?

Viola: No.

JC: Do you know where the Porter's came from?

Viola: My grandpa, he came from Virginia, somewhere in Virginia.

JC: How did they get to Kentucky?

Viola: I don't know. He was in the old Civil War. What they told me when he come to this country (Kentucky), he picked out a place right below where he built his house at when he got married, when he got out of the army.

I had his picture, in the old Civil War.

(timer 10:28) JC: He was in uniform in the picture?

Viola: Ya, he had his uniform on, and he had a fiddle.

JC: He did?

Viola: Uh huh. When we come up here to Mansfield, I've been married twice. My stepson, he took all the pictures. He's got em there in Mansfield.

JC: He has? Do you think he would loan me that picture so I could make a copy?

Viola: My Lord have mercy, you could have it. He took a whole suitcase full of pictures. I had Uncle **Cal's (Porter)** picture. He is dead. He was killed in the mines. And Aunt **Molly Porter** and one of her daughters. And I had the family group. I was the baby when it was took. With all the rest of them

JC: You did? With your grandpa in it?

Viola: No, with my daddy and mother and all my sisters and brothers. I was the baby then.

And **Will (Porter)**, my brother. I had just a whole lot of pictures of kin folks. And he took them all, and I never did get none of them. He lives in Mansfield on Reed Street.

JC: What is his name?

Viola: **Everett Vago**. (son of Ethel Bego, daughter of Albert Porter, son of Ed Porter, son of Levi Porter, son of Andrew J. Porter) {**Ethel Porter** was first married to **Nelson Bego**, and after she died, her young Aunt Viola married Nelson Bego} I write my name BEGO, and he writes his name VAGO.

JC: He does? **Everett Vago**. And he lives on Reed Street?

Viola: Ya. In Mansfield.

Doris: That **Will (Porter)**, is he the one who sells tombstones?

Viola: No, that's my brother.

Doris: That's not the one who sells tombstones?

Viola: No that is a different one. He lived down here at Lucasville, Ohio. And he died.

JC: And he spells him name VAGO?

Viola: Ya, VAGO.

JC: Why does he do that?

Viola: I don't know. His daddy said when he was born, they like to never... he had to go to the army. That is the way it came back, so he just left it that way. Use that name. One of his other boys spells their name that way.

JC: You were saying something about your grandpa came and found land?

Viola: Ya, said he picked it out. Said there was a bear down there below where he had his barn built. Said there was a bear. **Everett Vago** was telling me about that several years ago, when we lived over there, he come up there. He told my husband (**Nelson Bego**) about it. Said he (**Levi Porter**) killed a bear there, and he was setting there on a stump, and he said when he got out of the army, he was going to build his home there. And sure enough, he did. Sure enough if he didn't build his home there.

JC: So was he fighting over in Kentucky during the war?

Viola? Ya, he was through there then. Now he's still got his beard in the picture on a card about this big. There is somebody from Morehead wanted that picture one time, and I wouldn't let him have it. **Everett (Vago)** got all the pictures up there. And my father's picture too.

JC: He (Levi) would have been just a young man then.

Viola: Ya, he would.

JC: In his early 20's?

Viola: I don't know how old he would have been. He had a fiddle. I never know'd he ever played a fiddle. Never know'd that. But he had one in his picture. He had it in his hand in his picture.

JC: Why did he grow that beard?

Viola: I don't know. As quick as I seen them pictures, I know'd him.

JC: You saw that picture didn't you? (showing her the 1901 - 5 Porter brothers picture)

Doris: Uh huh.

JC: Ya that is her grandpa with the beard.

Viola: Uh Huh. I saw him, but I don't remember the rest of them. I thought one of them was Uncle **John (Porter)**.

JC: Ya, this one right here is John.

Viola: I know a long time before he died, before we came up here, him and his wife came to my house and ate dinner. And this is Uncle **Jim Porter** right here, aint it?

JC: No, this is Jim. And that is **Steve (Porter)** right there, and that is **Alick (Porter)** in the middle.

Viola: Oh, Ya, ya.

JC: Have you ever hear of those two sisters, back there?

Viola: No, I never heard of them.

JC: **Martha Day** and **Mary Dwelly**, your grandpa's sisters?

Viola: No, I never know'd them, but I see the picture and the name on the back. I never know'd them.

Viola: And grandma was a school teacher wasn't she?

JC: Was she?

(Timer 15:08 End of track 1)