

Dan Kegley (Part 2) 1979 **Stark, Ky.** (92 years old) Neighbor of **Jim Porter** (son of **Andrew J. Porter**)
Interview with **JC Porter** at **Dan Kegley's** home.

Dan Kegley: Oh shucks. People, well did you know why, **John Porter**, he was a preacher and **Marshall Adkins** shot him out there _____.

JC: Shot him?

Da: You ever hear about that?

JC: No.

Dan: **Andy Porter** (son of Jim), that was brother Dan lived in Ohio at that time. Someone told **Andy**, "You can't guess who got shot." **Andy** guessed it the first time. Uncle **John Porter**. He took that woman away from him they said.

JC: And so they shot him?

Dan: (00:36) I told Uncle **Crockett Kegley**; there used to be a feller name of **Rice** that come here to **Stark** and hold a 10 days meeting. I was a little feller then and of course paid no attention to nothin, [that's what] a boy [is] like. I worked for a feller there on a farm 5 year there in **Greenup County**, he run a big dry goods store in town, and I worked up at **Sandy**. He had four houses there, sometimes 4 renters there, 3 besides me. I was at the barn tending to everything, four mules and a mare, cattle. A feller come out of **Lawrence County** down there and rented, and he got to telling me about a **Rice**, a preacher in **Lawrence County**. Said he raised the orneriest set of boys you ever saw, and he had to get away from home to preach. He kept on a talking. I said, "There used to be a **Rice** come out here in **Elliott County** when I was a boy. Yeah, he used to come out here to hold meetings."

Well, me and Uncle **Crockett Kegley**, he was one of his millers. We was out one day walking along. I told **Uncle Crocket** about it after I quit working down there. He said, "I don't believe it. I don't believe it at all." I said, "Well by God, do you believe then that **Marshall Adkins** shot **John Porter**?" _____ (1:59) He never did give me no answer. By God, he couldn't deny that. (laughing) _____ Ah Lord.

JC: Did you ever hear about any of those **Porters** tell about where they came from in **Virginia**?

Dan: No sir I don't. I never was with them enough, now listen. You take in my growing up, they never went nowhere. A lot of people never seen a train. They had no way to go unless it was a horseback or a bull. In my growing up you never went no where hardly, and you wasn't acquainted with many. Now young ins have been from coast to coast. We had no way of getting nowhere. Just old dirt roads, all their hauling was done with mules and oxen and horses. I never was with them enough, now since I growed up, to know anything about where they come from.

Now my people, they traced it back, on one set, they come, now **George Kegley**, now I'm a **Kegley** out and out. They claim the other side, that if there was any relation, it was distant. The old people always claimed that. My mother married a **Kegley**. They said on my daddy's side they claim they come from **Germany**. **George Kegley** in 1760 I believe it was come from **Germany**. An old man, the **Stafford's** then, **Paul Stafford** told me that **Jimmy Stafford** come from **England** in 17 and something. Said he went to **West Virginia** and he married a **Blankenship**. They raised a bunch of children, and one of his boys named **John**, and he married a **Blankenship** too.

There was a girl now married my nephew's boy, and lives in **Arizona**. She wrote me and said the boy wasn't wanting to get up nothin about their people, said if she didn't get up a record of them, the young ins would never know a thing in the world about none of their people, live out there by their selves. I wrote and told her about some of them. I'm going to write her a letter, I can tell her about some more. Some of our people, you ever hear em tell about them, the **Regulators** hanging em up and killing for stealing did you? (4:47)

JC: Was **Steve Porter** in on that? They said he was a **Regulator**.

Dan: Huh?

JC: Was **Steve Porter**, they said he was one of those **Regulators**.

Dan: I don't know. My opinion, a feller showed me a list of em on a paper that long, and that wide. Seemed to me like I always heard **John Cline** was in on it where I worked for, I don't remember seeing **John's** name on there. Seemed like most of them come from **Sandy Hook** and up above there. They got to robbing people. That woman wrote me. I was going to write her back, the whole details of it, and have everyone, another niece of mine made me not write em, said they might not come. (laughing) There was a woman here a while back, wished I'd tell her the _____ of our people, I never thought about it, they wasn't here very long. Yeah Lord.

JC: Remember anything about **Levi Porter**?

Dan: **Levi Porter**?

JC: That was **Alick's** brother.

Dan: I've heard of him. I don't remember seeing him.

JC: He had a big long white beard.

Dan: Well, used to be, the reason I ain't got no beard now, I don't let it grow out. Used to be you'd go to the church and have a beard down here that long. They don't let your beard grow out anymore. On these boys and they, what's the reason it don't grow down here about this long?

JC: I don't know.

Dan: I heard them talking about some girl, said she couldn't stand that long hair and beard. I swear to God, **Levi Porter**, I've heard talk of him, but I don't believe I was ever acquainted with him. But now **Alick (Porter)**, I used to haul staves when I was 17 years old out there at the **Jacobs Switch** for **Drew Evans** up here off **Miss Leedy's** timber _____. (6:43) **Alick**, I remember him running the shop over there on **Porter Creek**. And **Harlan (Porter)**, let's see, **Harlan** was **Alick's** boy wasn't he?

JC: Yeah. Remember **Jasper**, **Alick's** boy?

Dan: And **Charlie (Porter)** he was **Alick's** boy wasn't he.

JC: Yeah. Remember **Jasper**?

Dan: I've been acquainted with **Charlie** for a long, long time. He was the funniest feller ever was. I swear to God. They started in up here at **Sandy Hook**. They got that county agent in there; they give away

some rye to sow. (7:30) They had em to cut out the corn. **Charlie (Porter) & Andrew Conn** met in there. **Charlie** told **Andrew** his boy was too poor to start a graveyard on that knoll. ____ (laughing) You'd think they'd fight if you had been there. You never heard no such a shine as they cut. And **John Sloan, Jeff Rose** was telling about raising rye and the stuff wasn't _____. **John Sloan** told him a stalk of corn would eat anything.

JC: Do you remember anything about **Charlie's** brother **Jasper (Porter)**?

Dan: No, I wasn't acquainted with him.

JC: Never met him huh?

Dan: Huh Uh. If I have, I forgot about it. Now **Jim Porter**, I was better acquainted with **Jim**, that is of the old ones, than any of them. **John Porter**, I used to go out here to my aunt's. My daddy died when I was about a year old, and my Maw brought me back up here to my Grandpap and Grandmother living then. I stayed there, and I was 4 years old in November, then she married **Osc Kegley's** oldest boy down here in the flat. I'd go out there to meeting with them. **John**, I've known **John** up there all my life.

Well, when I quit that farm down there where I worked five years, I come to **Olive Hill** and hired in there at the store a working for **Flannery Brothers**. **John Porter** come out there one day. There was snow on the ground, a big snow, but you know how the sun will shine out and be warm over head?

JC: Yeah

Dan: Well, he come in there. They had two stores, a dry goods store. They first put me in the dry goods store, then they brought me over to the grocery store. The street was there and a door here. You went back through yonder, and you had a counter across there. They had a meat block back behind, they sold meat. **John**, me and **Isom** back there where the meat block was. **John** come in there and he told **Isom**, he said, "I'd like to leave my overcoat there." **Isom** says, "Well you take it around there behind the counter and hang it up on the telephone box." Well as I went around, it was awful heavy in the right-hand pocket, you know, it felt like iron. I looked down there, and there was a 38 special in there. I never did tell **Flannery**, never did say nothin about it.

Well that evening he come in, he wanted his overcoat. I went and got it. I reached it to him. He laid it across his arm. He wanted to know who I was. I told him what my name was and I told him, "**Kegley** was my name." He wanted to know whose son I was. I told him, "**Will Kegley's** son. My daddy died when I was about a year old." He said him and **Will Kegley** was the best of friends. They held church together he said.

He was telling about a **Rice** coming out there to hold a meeting at **Stark** and he died one evening. They sent for him to come over there to have meeting that night. Well, him and **Alick**, them **Catrons** went along. You know them **Catrons**, they could out joke the very devil. (11:01) They slipped some boy out. I've heard Maw tell that. Maw and Aunt **Adeline**, that was uncle **Gordon's** wife, and Uncle **Crocket's** wife. One was a **Walker**, and one was a **Brickey**. They fell out with my grandma over there, and Maw too. Well Aunt **Adeline** got up there, they used to cut off a block off of a tree. Cut a block about this high. Cut a step here and another step up on top and get on the horse side saddle you know. Aunt **Adeline** got up on that style block and preached to em. She said they had a little old dog there they thought the world of it. She said, "I just kicked it just as far as I could send it." She said, "I just wanted

them to jump onto me.” Well **John Porter** and them went there and they never asked them to have supper and they slipped some boy out to put up **Rice’s** horse and they put up **John Porter’s** horse. (laughing) I asked Maw about, **John Porter** didn’t know who the boy was. I come back home, and I asked Maw about it and maw said it was **Charlie Kegley** that they slipped out and put up his horse. He thought he was putting up **Rice’s** and he put up **John’s** horse. They asked that didn’t make out to call on **Alick** to pray and he cut it short.

I’ve heard Maw tell that, but **John Porter** told me the same when he found out who I was. He told me how they treated Maw there too. He said they got out to leave and his horse was gone. (laughing) I forget how come to find out, I reckon when they told him about your horse being gone, I guess they come out and that boy told em that he had put them in the barn for **Rice’s** horse. He said them **Catron’s** like to have deviled him to death all the way home. He said they thought more of him than they did of **Rice**. (laughing) Ah shucks. What a time people had.

JC: Sounds like that had a lot of fun back then.

Dan: Lord, I reckon. They had more fun then than they do now. Now they want to get in an old car or truck and get out and run and run. Back then they would gather up and have a good time. Yeah, Lord what a time people had. Yeah, they put his horse up for **Rice’s**. Them **Catrons** couldn’t be downed on a joke. Well Lord.