

Nov. 22, 1979 Interview with **Louise Porter Brown** (1926-2020) of Morehead, KY. (Track 1 of 2)
(Daughter of **Andy Porter** 1885-1959, son of **Jim Porter** 1859-1906, son of **Andrew J Porter** 1822-1888)

Louise: Uh huh. These, **Bill, Charles** lived in **Middletown** (Ohio) along with my grandmother (**Lucinda Long Porter**) And, let's see, **Bess** and **Kate** lived in **Middletown**. **Floyd** lived near Middletown. I'm not sure the town, cause see I can remember him moving to different parts of Ohio. I'm not sure, now he lives just out of **Dayton** somewhere, and as far as I know, **Floyd** is still alive.

JC: Is that right?

Louise: Uh huh. I have a brother who lives in **Trotwood**, which is a suburb of **Dayton** that can tell you where he lives. I had a brother that visited me last weekend from **Columbus**. He was telling me about the two of them going to visit him about 2 years ago. As far as we know, he is still alive.

JC: How about that. **Jim Porter's** boy. Your brother, what is your brother's name.

Louise: The one that lives in **Dayton, Gene, Eugene** is his right name, we call him Gene.

JC: He is a **Porter** then, isn't he?

Louise: Uh huh.

JC: And he lives in **Dayton**?

Louise: Well it is **Trotwood**, which is a suburb of Dayton.

JC: Troutwood?

Louise: Trot. TROT

JC: And he could tell me where **Floyd** lives. Are any other the others living? (1:50)

Louise: About 2 years ago, my **Aunt Kate** was still living, and she should be living in **Middletown** somewhere.

JC: What is her married name?

Louise: **Jackson**.

JC: What was her husband's name?

Louise: She called him **Jack**. I'm not sure if his name was **Jack**, or if that was a nickname or what. I can't ever remember anything except **Jack**. And **Sarah** is still living as far as I know, and she lives in **Helena Montana**. That is where she lived the last time...

JC: What is her married name?

Louise: Oh dear. She was married a second time. She was married to a **DeHart** first. **Sarah**, I really don't know.

JC: I wonder who could tell me who she is married to? (3:20 doorbell)

Louise: This is the young Porter that I had the letter from. **Galen Brown**.

Galen Brown: Oh really, how are you?

JC: Oh, this is your husband?

Louise: Uh huh

Galen Brown: How are you?

Scott Porter: **Scott Porter.**

Galen: **Scott**, good to see you.

JC: **JC Porter**

Galen: Well she was getting ready to answer the letter.

JC: I was down visiting, so I thought I would stop by.

Galen: Well that's nice.

Louise: Here is another picture of _____ (3:51)

Galen: She was questioning I guess she told you about **Ralph**, but I didn't know anything about _____ (3:57)

Louise: And he is next to, no

JC: He's your brother?

Louise: He is my brother. He is the 3rd child in the family, and I am the youngest. There were 7 of us. And he didn't know much about it, except he didn't know our **Uncle Floyd** was still living.

JC: And he said for sure that **Floyd** was still living?

Louise: As far as he knows. He hasn't heard in a year or two, probably he or **Gene**, one or the other would know. The one I'm talking about lives in **Columbus**, his name is **Ralph**.

Galen: Now which one is this one?

Louise: This is Dad. Is that like **Bill**, can you remember him?

Galen: Ya.

Louise: This is **Charles**.

Galen: **Charles** was younger than **Bill** wasn't he?

Louise: I know it. That looks too much like **Bill**, not to be **Bill**.

Galen: Ya. (4:45)

Louise: He says this is **Ed**.

Galen: You know **Ralph** said, **Charlie Porter**, he looked like **Raymond**, remember? (5:09) (Galen & Louise discuss 1904 picture of Jim Porter family)

Galen: **Charlie** said that **Ed** and **Raymond** looked so much like him when he was young.

Louise: I thought that looked so much like him.

Galen: Ya, a little bit. His forehead, from here up.

Louise: If this is **Ed**. This would be **Bill, Charles**.

Galen: Now this one is younger. And **Charles** was younger than **Bill**. You are getting them backwards.

Louise: You think so, but it looks so much like him though.

Galen: But you've got to go by the age. He wouldn't be that much smaller would he? (5:59)

JC: What was your question?

Louise: These two. This looks like **Charles**, and this looks like **Bill**.

Galen: What was the one, is there one younger than **Charles**, a boy?

Louise: No.

JC: **Bill** was born in 1899, and **Charlie** was born sometime after that. I don't know when.

Galen: This looks more like **Elliott**. Which one would be **Elliott**?

JC: **Elliott** was a couple years older than **Bill**.

Louise: We don't know which one is **Floyd**. (6:26)

JC: One of them is not in there. There should be one, two...

Galen: Who is the baby?

Louise: **Sarah. Lucy, Kate & Bess**.

Galen: You got 5 boys there?

JC: Should be 6 boys, but there is only 5 in the picture, right? One of them is not there yet. Gone or sick?

Galen: How old was **Elliott**? Where did he come in at?

JC: **Elliott** was born in 97. **Bill** was born in 99. I'd guess this was probably taken around 1903, 04, 05. Jim was killed in 1906, And he is older here than in the other picture I sent you, you can tell that. Where did your grandmother die at (**Lucinda Long** wife of **Jim Porter**)? Did she die around here?

Louise, No, **Middletown**.

JC: Where is she buried at?

Louise: **Middletown**.

JC: She is? I thought she was buried at **Fairview**, in **Elliott County**.

Louise: No, he is. They lived in **Middletown** for years. I can't even remember when they didn't live in Middletown.

Galen: If you find any bad apples in this tree, I want to know about it.

JC: Well I've hit one already.

Louise: Just one? (laughing)

JC: One pretty bad, maybe two? What made them go to **Middletown**? Why did they move to **Ohio**?

Galen: Work probably.

Louise: I really don't know.

JC: **Andy** stayed around here, your dad, right?

Louise: Well he lived in **Ohio** for two years. He didn't go I don't guess when the rest of them went. I don't believe. When my mother's father got old, they moved out to care for him. That is why we ended up back here. We lived in **Ohio**. All the others ...

JC: Your mother was from **Ohio**?

Louise: No, she was from here.

Galen: A lot of people back then used to go up there to work on the farms. I don't know when the Armco plant started up that way. **Bill** worked there at **Armco Steel**.

Louise: **Charles** was on the Police force. He was the **Police Captain**.

Galen: Then **Floyd**, did he work at Armco, or where did he work?

Louise: I'm not sure where he worked.

JC: Your dad (**Andy Porter**) was a schoolteacher wasn't he?

Louise: In the early days. I can't remember him teaching. I think before he was married he taught. (9:34) That one, He looks like grandpa

Galen: I recognized the picture. **Louise** showed it to me.

Louise: We both picked him out from one of my brothers.

Galen: One of her brothers that was killed in Service. I remembered him you know. She didn't show me the back there, and I picked him out.

JC: How old do you think he is there?

Louise: Probably in his 40's.

JC: Ya, he is about 45. I didn't think he looked that old. I thought he looked real young.

Galen: Now what relation are you, I mean how are you connected?

Louise: You looked at that big tree, remember?

JC: Did I send you that big chart? His (**Jim's**) brother is my great-great grandpa. His brother was **Alexander Porter**.

Galen: You had that, ya that is right.

JC: I sent you that picture. There is my great-great grandfather, and there is **Jim**. Those were all 5 of the brothers, (10:45) and two of the 6 sisters.

Louise: That is the first picture I ever saw like that. If this is **Ed**, that is the first picture I've ever seen of him.

JC: Ya, I know that is **Ed**. The lady I copied it from lives in **Sandy Hook, Elaine Conley**. She runs the...

Galen: **Conley Electric Company**

JC: Yes. She is your relative, did you know that?

Louise: Yes.

JC: How did you know she was related to you? She is as distantly related as I am to you.

Louise: See, we have lived in Elliott County most of our lives. Her dad (**Cody Greene**) and my dad (**Andy Porter**) were what, 2nd cousins?

JC: Probably, that is her great grandpa **Steve Porter**. **Elaine's** great grandpa.

Louise: They were always kind of close to be 2nd cousins. Her Dad and my Dad were always kind of close. Of course, he was our dentist. We always knew them, that family.

JC: I'll send you one of these if you want one.

Louise: Yes, I'd like to have one.

JC: I'll make one a little bigger. I just ran off a few of them.

Galen: It takes a lot of time doesn't it?

JC: You are not kidding.

Galen: **Kate Porter** is still living. She could probably give you more information. Don't you think?

Louise: Well, ya. Have you been to see **Harlan Porter**?

JC: Ya.

Louise: My brother seemed to think that **Harlan** could give you information even on our family.

JC: If any of these three are living, like you say...

Louise: You'd rather see them.

JC: I've already talked to **Harlan** about ours, because he is my grandpa's Uncle. So is **Everett Porter** over there. I'm going through **Ohio** hopefully in a couple weeks, and I will stop by and talk to some of them.

Louise: If you stop by and see my brother, he can tell you where...

Galen: Did you give him **Gene's** address?

Louise: No I haven't yet. He can tell you where **Floyd** lives. He is not too far out of **Middletown**, but I can't remember the name of that town. It is terrible. We are ashamed of ourselves for not keeping a little closer track.

JC: That happens.

Louise: We used to, when my grandmother was living, we kept closer track of them. Everybody got busy with their own families, and you start neglecting things like that. It seemed like there was something else. You had asked for a list of my immediate family.

JC: Ya.

Louise: I had gotten a couple pages of the letter written, I got down that far and then I stopped. I didn't get it finished. I don't know if you can make anything out of what I have written.

JC: Is that the children?

Louise: Uh huh. And this is the oldest one, **Virginia**, married to **Estill Greene**, and they have one child, a girl **Billy Jo**.

And **Raymond**, he was killed in **WWII**.

Ralph lives in Columbus and he is married to **Virginia Trimble**. This is her 2nd marriage. She married a **Davis** and they have three children. (**Virginia Louise**) And this is her husband (**Rick Repeta**) and they have one son (**Tony**). This is the 2nd daughter (**Rebecca**) and her husband (**Jack Pyle**) and they have one daughter (**Jennifer**). And this is the only son (**Danny Ralph**), and he is still single. (15:20)

JC: Let me mark that wife first so I don't get mixed up.

Louise: Now he has only had one wife, but Davis was her first husband.

JC: Oh, let me erase that then. I thought you meant he married a **Trimble** and a **Davis**.

Louise: **Bert** was killed in **WWII**.

Eugene is alive. He lives in **Dayton**. This is his wife (**Amonodale Fannin**) and they have one child (**Dean**). This is the 5th son (**Jim Willie**), he married this girl (**Betty Mabry**) and they had 3 children. **Judy Kay**, I couldn't think, and I was going to ask somebody what her husbands name was. I couldn't think of his last name.

JC: Does she have any kids?

Louise: No. Huh uh. I couldn't think of **Linda**. She is married and has one child. And this is their son. We have two children (**Edward Eugene & Patricia Gail**) and they are both single. That is as far as I had gotten the information on there. We were talking, **Ralph** and I. You asked about the store at **Stark**. I'm not sure whether our grandfather ran a store or not. In the time we can remember it was ran by an Uncle of ours on my mothers side.

JC: Well your grandpa was dead.

Louise: I think my father was 15, when he died. And he was the oldest one. Oldest son, I don't know about **Lucy**.

JC: Ya, **Lucy** was the oldest. He was born in 85, is that about right?

Louise: Uh huh.

JC: I got that from the census. Where was your grandma from, do you know? Have you ever heard where she was from or where they were married?

Louise: Seems like she came from the county where you listed my grandfather as coming from.

JC: Virginia?

Louise: No.

JC: **Allen County, KY**?

Louise: Ya, **Allen County, KY** I believe maybe she was from that area.

JC: I was thinking that. I wrote down there to see if they had a marriage record, but the courthouse burned or something.

Louise: Really?

JC: Ya. He lived down there in 1880 with his sister **Elizabeth Hunt**. She is not in this picture. I figured maybe his wife was from there. I knew she was born in Kentucky, from the census.

Louise: I was trying to think of what her last name was. I used to know what her last name was, now I can't even think of what her last name was.

JC: **Long**?

Louise: (laughing) You know a lot more about it than I do.

Galen: I'll say one thing, he has been working on all that.

JC: I talked to a **Kegley** over there at **Stark**, he was 92 years old last month when I was there. He was a 2nd cousin to the guy who killed your grandpa. He knew all about it. He knew **Jim Porter** real well. He said **Jim Porter** used to hire his grandma and the whole family to do stuff for them, work on the farm. He said **Jim Porter** had a **store** there at **Stark**.

Louise: He knows what he is talking about.

Galen: What is his name, Gordon?

Louise: Ya.

JC: I thought it was **Dan**.

Louise: Daniel, **Daniel Kegley**. We saw him this summer at a family reunion.

Galen: He is still in good shape for that age.

JC: Boy is he a talker.

Galen: He still uses a tractor, uses a tractor, farm tractor and all.

JC: He started telling me all about it, how told me the whole story about how **Jim Porter** and the **Kegley** got into it and why. (20:18) **Ed** and **Andy** were going to teach school the first year, this Kegley's boys were going to teach the 2nd year. They were going to alternate every year. He wanted his kids to teach all the time, so he was going to get the **Kegley's** license revoked. He tried some way, and they got into a fight. I guess **Jim** hit him over the head with a chair. The **Kegley** man pulled a knife on him and stabbed him.

Louise: And that happened at **Sandy Hook**?

JC: Ya.

Louise: Were either of them a member of the board of education, did he say?

JC: No.

Galen: Back then what they had was more trustees. They still had a board of education.

Louise: Uh huh. They still had a board of education.

Galen: What **Kegley** was it? What was his name, do you remember?

Louise: **Ralph** said it was something else.

Galen: **Skeens** killed **Ed**.

JC: Was it Bill Kegley? That doesn't sound right.

Louise: No, I've heard the name.

Galen: What was the Skeens name?

JC: **Henry Skeens**. (21:42) I guess he went out west, they went after him. **John Porter**, **Jim's** brother, **John's** son and **John's** son in law, they went out to **New Mexico** after the guy, and they homesteaded some land out there. That is what they said, but everybody thinks they went out there after the guy who killed **Ed Porter**.

Galen: I'd like to know whether they got him or not.

JC: No, they didn't get him.

Louise: Did **Kegley** go to Texas? Did **Daniel** say?

JC: He said he went out west.

Louise: He went to **Texas**, somewhere. I can remember that.

Galen: Did they have a trial, or did he just leave?

JC: I don't know.

Galen: Lot of killings they would just leave, they would disappear. (23:42)

Louise: Back in those days. Now it might be a little bit more difficult.

JC: The way they talked, the **Skeens** guy just took off and ran. But I think **Kegley** claimed self-defense. I don't know if he served any time in jail or not. Anyway, they let him go. So you think she, your grandma was from **Allen County, KY**?

Louise: I think.

Galen: If you are going through **Ohio**, **Kate** is still living. She will give you a lot of information. Now who else Louise is up there, did you get him any other names, or maybe he has them?

JC: No, I don't have them.

Galen: Maybe **Elliott's** widow, what was her name, **Ruth**?

Louise: Ruth.

Galen: He could contact **Gene**. He will at least have their addresses and know where they are and know their last names. He could help on locating them. You know back in them days I think they did about as much killing. You just know more about it now. It is on the news. It might be less now per capita.

JC: They were pretty rough people back then.

Louise: **Gene's** address is 300 Eppington Drive

JC: Eppington?

Louise: **EPPINGTON**

JC: That is in **Dayton**?

Louise: **Trotwood**, which is a suburb. It kind of adjoins Dayton. I do have his phone number if you think you will need it.

JC: Ya, I'll go ahead and write it down. 2483

Louise: Uh huh. And he could give you the information on some of **Elliott's** children, probably. They live in **Ohio** too, some of them do, some of the boys, I don't know about some of the girls.

JC: Do you have **Ralph's** address too?

Louise: Uh huh. Yes I do too. He just moved recently. It's 3690

JC: Wait a second.

Louise: 3690 North Broadway.

JC: And that is in Columbus?

Louise: **Grove City**, which is just out of **Columbus**. I am so used to him living in Columbus, I automatically say **Columbus**. He just moved not long ago to **Grove City**. That is the reason I keep saying **Columbus**. Which it is also I guess a suburb of Columbus.

Galen: Are you doing any cover up in this investigation or are you writing it all down as you find it?

JC: Well I am writing it all down, I don't know if I am going to cover any of it up or not. (26:44) I was talking to a lady yesterday in Grayson, she is a distant relative (**Glenna Gearhart**, d/o Molly Flannery, d/o Rev. Steve Porter). They were talking about **Levi Porter**, that is **Jim's** brother. He was the oldest one, and he was the black sheep. And she said, now don't write any of this down. I'm hoping to write a book someday. It would be kinda nice.

Louise: Yes, I'd like to read it sometime if you write it.

JC: See **Jim Porter's** dad was **Andrew Porter**. He had the five sons and six daughters. I thought I would write on that family and have a chapter for each one of the kids. Tell about where they went, and what they did and why they did everything. I thought just for the heck of it, I would try to trace all of Andrew Porter's descendants. There is about 10,000.

Louise: Wow, they could be hard to ...

JC: I've been trying to do it anyway.

Louise: I presume that most of the family moved to **Ohio** for employment.

Galen: I'd say it was for economic reasons. They were in this rural area there. The farming, it was rather extensive there (28:00) ____ and then with the troubles they had there, I'd say ____ clear out probably contributed to it too.

JC: Ya, they had a lot of problems.

Galen: The first date I had with Louise, we had a pie social over there ...

Louise: You don't have to tell any of that.

Galen: **Pie Suppers**, you have heard of that?

JC: Ya, over in that area?

Galen: This boy, I had been in the Navy, just got out of the Navy, one of them got knifed. I put a tourniquet on his arm, of course he killed the guy that did that. Those pies, I was going to get off pretty light that night, her pie was probably bought for \$2.00 or something. But after all of that excitement they jumped to 5, 6, 7 dollars. They didn't worry about stopping the social. They just got rid of the dead and took one to the morgue and one to the hospital. So it hasn't changed a whole lot.

Louise: (29:03) Now don't polish it up any, It is bad enough. (laughing)

Scott: Ya they say those **Pie Suppers** really turned into....

Galen: Oh they was _____ (29:13)

Louise: If you could survive them.

JC: That is where most of the killing went on I guess. That was over around **Porter Creek**?

Galen: He is going to take this down. (laughing) The reason **Louise Porter** married... Too scared to say no, and said yes.

Louise: That happened at **Stark**.

Galen: Where you going? Wait a minute and I'll go with you. You did want company didn't you? I think it would be interesting. I'd have something to read and pick on her about.

JC: If I ever get it written.

Galen: You all was criticizing my relatives (laughing)

JC: I'll beef it up and make them sound real good. Let's see, **Lucy** married **Van Middleton**, right?

Louise: Uh huh.

JC: That is what that **Kegley** told me. He probably knew more about it than anybody.

Galen: I'd say that was your best source there.

JC: He knew all about **Jim Porter**. He just rattled it off. I could have asked him a lot more if I would have thought of it. (END OF TAPE) (30:37)