

Track 2 Everett Porter (son of Alex, s/o Andrew J. Porter) (tape 45 side 1)

JC: Ok, I'll see...

Everett: I didn't know you was a taping it. We just talked, talked.

JC: I'm writing everything down too.

Everett: Huh?

JC: I'm writing everything down too. Get it one way or the other. Let's see, we said most of his younger kids went out to **Wisconsin** with **Steve (Porter, s/o AJP)**

Everett: Huh?

JC: Most of **Steve's** younger kids went out to **Wisconsin**?

Everett: Ya. Let's see, I don't know if there was any more left here or not.

JC: Do you remember a **Mathuza**?

Everett: Huh?

JC: A **Martha** or **Mathuza**? Two of **Steve's** daughters **Martha** or **Mathuza**?

Everett: **Mathuzie**? Why he ain't got any named that.

JC: Ya he did. (laughing) Had to name em something. (laughing) Ya, he had one named that.

Everett: He had one named **Ann, Goldie**.

JC: Who did **Goldie** marry? She moved to **Wisconsin** too didn't she?

Everett: She left here before she married. If **Ann** married, I don't know who she married. One named **Lynn**, she died over there on **Sinkin** where he lived.

JC: Oh she did? She died here in Kentucky?

Everett: Huh?

JC: She died here in Kentucky?

Everett: Oh ya.

JC: He named one of his kids **Granville**.

Everett: One of his kids **Granville**?

JC: Ya, one of his children.

Everett: He must have died when he was real young.

JC: You don't remember him either?

Everett: That was his father in law's name, old **Granville Bumgardner**.

JC: Ya, well he named one of his children after his father in law.

Everett: It must have been just a hang on name and never used it. A lot of times they will have a double name and you never know what that double name is.

JC: Ya, that's right.

Everett: That one named Jehu, didn't you say there was one named, what was it?

JC: **Mathuza**. That was one of his daughters. She probably had a middle name. Maybe that's who **Ann** was, **Mathuza Ann**, or something like that.

Everett: Well there was one named Ann.

JC: That could have been any of the daughters, **Martha Ann**, **Mathuza Ann**, you never know.

Everett: Well I didn't know nothing, only just...**Ann**, she wasn't married. Did I name three boys?

JC: Ya, I think so.

Everett: **Charlie** and **French** and **Marvin**.

JC: Well now that French, he's probably **Granville**, because his middle initial is F.

Everett: **Granville**, that was his father in law.

JC: Ya, but they had a son named **Granville F**. so maybe that F is, you said they had a son named Francis? You said about a son named France?

Everett: Not that I know of.

JC: Who were the three sons again? **Marvin** and **Charlie** and who was the other one?

Everett: **French**.

JC: Well maybe that was him then. Maybe they just left the other name out and went by his middle initial.

Everett: He could have been named **Granville French**.

JC: Ya, was he older than you?

Everett: Ya.

JC: About 8 years older than you?

Everett: Something near that, Ya.

JC: Then that's probably him.

Everett: It might have been that much.

JC: **FRENCH?**

Everett: Huh?

JC: **FRENCH? Granville French?** Or was it Francis?

Everett: We just always called him **French**.

JC: What happened to him?

Everett: Aw he got to be a railroader.

JC: Oh he did?

Everett: Uncle Steve tried to make a homemade preacher out of him. Sent him to Baltimore, aw it wasn't Baltimore. It will come to me directly, where the Methodists sends them to make preachers out of them.

JC Ya.

Everett: And they would send him money, so forth and so on. Come to find out, he was gambling it away. (laughing) He quit school. He come back once. Boy he on had a pair of pants with a stripe down them like a graduate. Him and **Sam (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** my brother got up there behind the garden playing cards, he had a deck of cards. He was tough one.

JC: Did he move out to **Wisconsin** with them?

Everett: No, he got to be a railroader. What did happen to him? Now **Charlie (Porter, s/o Steve, s/o AJP)**, he married a sister to **Millard's** wife (**Millard Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP**). They was **Elliotts**. They was partly raised there on **Porter Creek**. A whole coach of them decided to go to **Wisconsin** to work in the timber. **Millard** he never went for that, he just went for that woman. He was going with **Martha Elliott**. And every **Elliott** of the name that wasn't up in **Wisconsin** went with that bunch. They sold out on **Mauk Ridge**, and they just all lined up to go to **Wisconsin**, and did.

JC: So that **Charlie (Porter, s/o Steve, s/o AJP)** went out there with them?

Everett: Huh?

JC: **Charlie** went to **Wisconsin** with them?

Everett: He either went with them, ya, I guess he was in this bunch. He married an Elliott, **Becky Elliott**, a sister to Millard's wife **Martha**.

JC: Do you remember anything else about any of **Steve's** kids?

Everett: Huh?

JC: Do you remember anything else about any of **Steve's** kids?

Everett: Them boys was pretty wild.

JC: They were?

Everett: (laughing) Uncle **Steve (Porter, s/o AJP)**, he done his best to make a preacher out of **French**. He lacked a lot of it. He quit sending him money when he found out he was gambling. Well he quit school. Now you can't make...a homemade preacher. A homemade preacher ain't no good.

JC: No.

Everett: Nooo. I've got a son in law, (7:37) Little homemade preacher. And he wants to get something where there is a pretty good salary. But he has to, like there is one at Olive Hill, but he has to go away somewhere where they don't know him for the next year. He's been down in Tennessee and different places in Ohio. Now he is in Illinois, way down towards Chicago. Don't know where, they never heard of him down there. He has to have literature, and make his sermon. If he would happen to lose it, he couldn't preach. No, I don't reckon he ever gets any joiners, or anything. Anywhere they know him, they won't hire him. He looks like a foreigner. He talks like one.

JC: Let's see, what about **Levi's** kids? Do you remember his oldest son Ed?

Everett: What?

JC: His oldest boy **Ed (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)**?

Everett: **Cal (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)** was about the oldest one I guess.

JC: He had an older sister **Laura** and an older brother **Ed**.

Everett: Done what?

JC: **Calhoun** had an older sister **Laura** and an older brother **Ed**. Do you remember anything about them?

Everett: Ya, **Ed** worked down here at **Lawton**, them old **quarries**, about till he died.

JC: **Levi's** boy **Ed** did?

Everett: Huh?

JC: **Levi's** son **Ed** did?

Everett: Ya.

JC: Who did he marry?

Everett: A **Wallace** I believe.

JC: Any of their kids live around here?

Everett: No.

JC: They don't?

Everett: They was then. That is was back really before I can recollect.

JC: Who did **Laura** marry?

Everett: Let's see, are we talking about Uncle **Levi's** kids?

JC: Ya.

Everett: She must have died before I can recollect. They had one named **Lulie**. She married **George Roberts**.

JC: **George Roberts**?

Everett: Ya. And I've been told that was the only kid they had, the only girl I mean.

JC: That other one must have died young or something.

Everett: Must have done it.

JC: What about **Calhoun**, what happened to him?

Everett: Well, he uh, I just don't know much about that gentleman. He drifted off. I was never acquainted with him. There was one they called **Bird (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)**. He just lived around here in the country and worked at these quarries and so forth. One named **Arthur (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)**. He married a **Leadingham**. Most of his kids are living yet, but he died young. **Bird, Cal** and **Ed**, and one named **Jim (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)**. He had to scoffel?(polio?)(11:30) a little, went on his toe. (walked on his toe?) His jaw, a big scar there on his neck.

JC: Where did that scar come from?

Everett: Huh?

JC: What did the scar come from?

Everett: Where's what.

JC: What did he get the scar on his jaw from?

Everett: That scoffel?(polio?)(11:50) I reckon. Of course I recollect him well. He was a school teacher.

JC: He was a lawyer wasn't he?

Everett: Ya in the last. He told my daddy, he said, "**Alick (Porter, s/o AJP)**," my daddy was his Uncle. They hardly ever called them Uncles. Uncle Levi's family, the rest of them did. **Ed (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)**, he would just call "**Alick**" just by his name. **Jim (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)** I guess was about the only one who had an education to amount to anything, of Uncle Levi's bunch. Uncle Levi didn't have none. Talk about Mare, he would call her Mare (making fun of **Levi Porter's** Virginia accent?)(12:40), and so forth and so on. They tell me used to teach school a way back yonder, it was a way back yonder.

JC: Who, Levi?

Everett: Ya.

JC: He did?

Everett: They took him in the army.

JC: That's not your grandpa (**Andrew J. Porter**) that used to teach school is it?

Everett: Huh?

JC: Did your grandpa teach school?

Everett: **Andy Porter**?

JC: Ya.

Everett: I really don't know. That was back too far before my time.

JC: Ya. What was it Jim said to your Uncle? I mean to your dad. What did **Jim (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)** say to your dad?

Everett: He was my first cousin, **Jim** was. He said to my dad one day, "I'm a thinking about studying law. And the main part of law, he said I've studied it from my youth up. I don't have to study that any more. He said that is trickery.

JC: Trickery?

Everett: Boy now he was good on that.

JC: He was?

Everett: All of **Levi's** bunch was.

JC: Is that right?

Everett: This runs down in em right now. The young ones here on **Leatherwood**, you can tell every one of them. Ya they are as tricky as they can be.

JC: Is that right?

Everett: Ya.

JC: Lots of his descendants live on **Leatherwood**?

Everett: Huh?

JC: Lots of his kids and grandkids live on **Leatherwood**?

Everett: Ya, it just runs right on down. Uncle **Levi (Porter, s/o AJP)** was tricky. Lie and everything else.

JC: He would?

Everett: He had big hairy tales like he had done, and so forth. No body couldn't have lived through what he would tell he had went through with.

JC: What was some of the stuff he said?

Everett: I guess we named about all of his family.

JC: What was some of the tales that he told about himself?

Everett: Huh?

JC: What were some of the tales that **Levi** told about himself?

Everett: Some of the tales?

JC: Ya, you said he told tales and you couldn't believe him. What did he say?

Everett: Ya, that is about right. He would tell old hairy tales. One time he went a courting. They used to make an old flannel shirt, homemade stuff they made it out of. He didn't have nary a one. He went to courting and put on granddads.

JC: Ya. His dads?

Everett: Huh.

JC: His dads?

Everett: His daddy, ya. They said loft, he stayed all night.

JC: He stayed all night when he went courting?

Everett: Huh?

JC: He stayed all night when he went courting?

Everett: Ya, so he said. Said they just had boards a laying up there for the floor upstairs. Said his girlfriend and her mother was in the kitchen a getting breakfast. He heard em down there, and he thought he would get up. He slipped down there to get his britches and just before he got em, he got on the end of some boards and they rared up, and he fell right down. They used to have like a hog trough dug out for soap. They would make homemade soap and have it poured in it. He said he fell through, right down in the kitchen, and that old shirt tail they said hung on a big nail or peg or something or other. A time or two swinging around, just stripped him naked, all but just his arms is all. (laughing) It tore loose, something did, and he fell right in that soap trough.

JC: It pulled all of his clothes off, by hanging on that nail?

Everett: Huh?

JC: It pulled all of his clothes off when he hung on that nail?

Everett: Ya, that was all he had on I guess. He never did find his britches. Said he jumped up and took to running and two big hounds took after him. He run through an old briar field. Said them briars scratching, and that soap was getting in, you talk about hurting. Oh he could sit and tell one big lie right after another, just to get people to laugh. (17:15)

JC: Papaw told us that one.

Everett: Huh?

JC: Papaw told us that story. (JC was referring to his grandpa **Everett Porter**, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)

Everett: He did?

JC: Ya, he said he had heard that one.

Everett: He could tell you a heap more than I could. He was older. (JC's great grandpa **Jasper**, was an older brother to **Everett**)

JC: Well how did **Levi (Porter, s/o AJP)** get started in that **hypnotism** and **table walking**?

Everett: Aw, there was a whole lot to that. There is actually a spirit behind it, but I think it is the wrong one. It would lie; you could catch it in a lie. They got to going to **Huntington**. There was an old woman up at **Huntington**. (17:53) That claimed she, you could go up there and want to talk to your dead people.

JC: Oh is that right?

Everett: She could call them up, and she called up a voice they said.

JC: Ya.

Everett: Uncle **John (Porter, s/o AJP)** went. He was right smart to find out if ...he called up **Tom Goodan**, his neighbor right down below him. When he left, he was well and hardy. (laughing) showing him up as being dead.

JC: Oh (laughing) John did that huh?

Everett: Ya, he tricked em right there.

JC: Did he tell them they were lying to him?

Everett: I don't think he did. He just left them. He was pretty good on _____ them. (19:10)

JC: What did **Levi** say when he found that out?

Everett: Huh?

JC: What did Levi say when he found out John had tricked them?

Everett: I wouldn't know. I don't know what ...I guess some of them told him, more than likely. **Wint (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** & Uncle **Levi (Porter, s/o AJP)**, they joined... They was the one that ordered the horn I think.

JC: Oh is that right?

Everett: I seen that horn. It was big in the middle, tapered down. Oh it was about that long I guess, 3 foot long. They said it got heavy. They told them it would get heavy. Just hold it in your hand that way. Just like hanging it on the wall. Not grip it or nothing. But that is all it ever done, just got heavy like that. They just thought it did. _____(20:10) naturally it seemed like it got heavy, it would give out. (20:13)

JC: What is the story of **Wint** getting shot by that **Underwood**, when they killed **Paris Underwood**?

Everett: Well it ain't too long a story. I know about that right smart bit. While I wasn't up there, I lived in **Olive Hill** then.

JC: You did?

Everett: They had a pie supper up there at the school house, right above **Wint**. **Paris Underwood** and the **Bowen** boy, they got drunk and come over there, and I guess disturbed mighty bad, is what people said.

JC: They broke up the supper, huh?

Everett: Huh?

JC: They broke up the supper?

Everett: Who did?

JC: **Paris Underwood**.

Everett: Ya, they did. So **John Cline**'s girl that lived over on **Dry Branch** by these fellers. They put him before the grand jury. Nah, he says, I live right over here by them and he said just wait and get **Wint Porter**. He was right over there, lives right by the school house, nearly. Get him, and he talked them out of putting him before the g...it was his daughter's school, and the one that caused all of it. And so they done that. They put **Wint** before the grand jury and there wasn't nothing left to do only indict them. He told them how they did. Then they got drunk again, at **Soldier** right up here. **Underwood's** daddy run a store there. They told him that they was going over there to kill Wint Porter.

JC: Cause **Wint Porter** indicted them?

Everett: Ya. He tried to tell em to go somewhere else. Tried to talk em out of...No, they was going, and did. So they went over there. He had **Charlie Justice**, they was hauling in hay.

JC: Ya.

Everett: They come to the barn, and the store just above it. **Wint** was up at the store. And they raised a row. **Charlie Justice** was just a hired hand there, and neighbor. He wasn't no kin. He come out and he talked to them. He got through and just went to the house. So if they had been aimed to do anything and know'd anything, they would have done it before they let em go to the house. **Wint** went to the house. He got his shotgun.

JC: Wint got his shotgun?

Everett: **Wint**, and **Charlie Justice** went and, he had a new pistol, but he didn't know how to take care of a pistol. You've got to take care of a pistol if you use it and depend on it. And they got a hold of that and one of them shot **Underwood** in the arm.

JC: They shot **Underwood** first?

Everett: Huh?

JC: They shot **Underwood** first?

Everett: Well they was a coming right up the hill from the branch. **Wint** lived up on the side of the hill there. All of mine is hearsay, I wasn't there. **Wint** just dropped down by a big locust post, for a gate post, and his foot was sticking out and they shot him through his ankle. Here's the thing about a shotgun. You can _____(24:53) them. Then **Underwood**, no it was **Bowen**. He was coming right up and a lot of the family was standing on the porch, open porch, and they was just coming right up. They was scared too bad to get back in the house. And **Charlie Justice** got hold of that pistol. He just walked right out and shot...no he got shot with his shotgun. Shot him right in the face. He just turned when he shot him, that was **Bowen**. They had done shot Underwood in the arm, with a pistol. He was on down further at the road. And this **Bowen**, he started up the road. My brother **Sam (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)**

lived up there. And they was acquainted to him. But he got down, the whiskey and the shots and all. He was bleeding pretty bad. He got down, and **Underwood** went up. They both had a 38 special apiece. And **Underwood** thought, he was just shot in the arm, and he thought that **Bowen** was killed, and the rest of them did too. So he takes **Bowen's** pistol, and that made him two. Went on up to **Sam's**, and they had a concrete block out in front of, with a board, out in front of the well to stand on to draw water. He said he was sitting on that, so he would like to have a drink. Well one of **Sam's** girls, **Opal**. She started in the house, maybe aimed to draw some drink or something. When she went in the kitchen, he turned the pistol on himself and killed himself.

John Kegley, Bowen, he got up and come up by the house and was so drunk and weak too I guess, he just passed on by the house. Went up there and got down. **John Kegley**, the neighbor went up there and looked at him. He passed him up as a dead boy. He got up and lived a few years.

JC: Oh ya, I was going to ask you about your kids and grandkids.

Everett: Huh?

JC: I've got a list of your kids and grandkids. Let me find it here.

Everett: (28:30) One has been on a big trip.

JC: Oh is that right? Where too?

Everett: Well I just don't know where all they went. He lives here in **Olive Hill**. His wife died and they've got eight kids, all married but one, got families. He still lives at home or stays with a woman most of the time over on another creek.

JC: Oh he does.

Everett: And her and her father and mother, and this woman's little boy. Oh they went far enough; they took a big jet ride. That old man, oh he wasn't so old, big fat feller, he runs a **restaurant** at the far end of **Olive Hill**. They just locked it up. My boy and another feller, they've both got car lots down there. They just about joined together. If I was him I would. Just close up. They was both paying rent on them. Have one phone and one lot. (29:52) They can't sell their cars that they've kept over...too make a long story short, the bottom has just about fell out if it, second hand cars. They are buying cars on the phone. Way up in Ohio, and then go and get em. They can sell them just as quick as they get them in. Of course they sell them for a profit. But the bottom has fell out of these they have had there for so long, the people have seen them don't want them I reckon. They went on this wild goose chase. I think he told me, the other night they come by here, him and his girlfriend. He come over and set down by me, telling me where they went, but I couldn't recollect. I think they was in California. Come through there, got on that jet and went yon ways, I don't know where they got on that at.

That old man, really wasn't old, he said that he just caught his breath and just humped up. He'd never been on a plane I don't reckon before.

JC: Can I ask you about all of your kids and grandkids?

Everett: Ya.

JC: Ok. Let's see, your oldest child is **Edna**? End of tape. (31:35)