

Track 8 Eva Owens

Telephone interview with **JC Porter** (s/o Don, s/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o Andrew Jackson Porter) January 9, 1980

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JC It is now 9:12 PM. Calling Dr. Arvis Porter at Morehead (KY) The number is 784-5384

(At beginning of tape phone is ringing)

Dr. Porter Hello

JC Is this **Dr. Porter**?

Dr. Porter This is **Dr. Porter**.

JC Uh, my name is **JC Porter**. I'm calling from Marion, Indiana.

Dr. Porter Uh-huh

JC I was told you have a book on the Porter's family, by Mrs. **Eva Owens**, that lives around Morehead.

Dr. Porter No, she must have misunderstood me. I didn't have any. I was telling her some, couple of people that might have information though.

JC Oh?

Dr. Porter No, I, I haven't, uh, I, I told her of a **(01.33) Olney ? Conn** that knew a little bit about the family history up in Elliott County.

JC Yeah

Doctor Porter And a **Mrs. Opal Fultz**.

JC **Opal Fultz**?

Doctor Porter Yeah, that had a little information. She has a Bible that might have some. I don't know how far back it goes. I know it has one generation, anyway.

JC Yeah, well, do you know a little bit about your ancestry?

Dr. Porter Very little. I just, I know my grandfather Porter was in the **Civil War** at 14. He fought for the Rebels and then when he got captured he fought for the Union army.

JC What was his name?

Dr. Porter His name was, uh, **Henry Porter**.

JC **Henry Porter**, and was he from, let's see – he fought in a Kentucky regiment?

Dr. Porter Well, you know, I really don't know that. We counted back on his tombstone. It had his birthdate. When he went in the army he would have had to have been about 14 years old.

JC Yeah

Dr. Porter But I don't know what regiment or anything like that he was in, never did, you know – check on it.

JC Well, he was born around in Kentucky, some place?

Dr. Porter Yeah, he was from **Elliott County**, so I guess he was born there.

JC Well –

Dr. Porter He died. See my father was about 12 years old when he died. So he was oldest (02:44)

JC Well, I see

Dr. Porter He raised his family. I think there was one girl that was older than him.

JC Yeah, huh

Dr. Porter So, apparently, there were about two **Henry Porters** in **Elliott County**, but, uh

JC I remember the names from the Census.

Dr. Porter There's supposed to have been one that was the sheriff up there but I don't think was my grandfather.

JC Yeah. Well, our Porters lived in **Elliott**, but they never came to Kentucky until 1866.

Dr. Porter 1866?

JC Yeah, and all the Porters, you know, the **Porter Creek** area, **Carter, Elliott County**,

Dr. Porter Yeah, I know of them since I came to **Morehead**. I've met most of them.

JC Yeah, well that's my relatives.

Dr. Porter Well, they, they're probably distant relatives, but I don't know how far back, you know, to me.

JC Yeah. Well, I don't. I assumed that **Porter Creek** was named after our Porters, but 1866 seems awful recent to name it after.

Dr. Porter Yeah, it does, doesn't it?

JC Yeah and it seems, you know, a strange coincidence that they moved to that area called **Porter Creek** if they weren't related. So, I don't know.

Dr. Porter I would say they're all some relation if you go back two or three generations.

JC Yeah

Dr. Porter So

JC Hmm

Dr. Porter Uh, now the person that I knew when I was a boy - that he knew all the, he traced 'em back to Ireland, he said was Uncle **Bill Hall**, but he's dead.

JC Yeah

Dr. Porter And I don't know how much information his family would have, you know.

JC He could trace the Porters back?

Dr. Porter Yeah, he could trace a lot of family. He prided himself in knowing all the descendants. Of course, he was, he was about 92 when I was a small boy and I'm 50, so that goes back a little ways.

JC Yeah, huh, (laughs).

Dr. Porter He could remember.

JC Yeah, I'll be darned.

Dr. Porter But, I've taken care of his sons since I became a doctor. He was about 98? When he was here in the hospital in **Morehead**.

JC Oh, is that right?

Dr. Porter But, uh, I really don't have too much information. Now, there was my grandfather **Dehart (4:40)** there was a man here in **Morehead** that ran his family tree back a long way.

JC Yeah, Hmm, Yeah this **Mrs. Owens**, she made it sound like you had a book.

Dr. Porter No, I got, I think she was talking about the Bible that belongs to, that my mother had.

JC I see.

Dr. Porter I saw that Bible, but I didn't – look back. She was showing me some of my aunts and uncles names that were recorded, birthdates and everything.

JC Well, this wasn't too far back then.

Dr. Porter No, but, I don't know if it went back any farther. It was a real old Bible.

JC Yeah, hmm

Dr. Porter But it probably had, you know maybe a couple generations of people.

JC Yeah

Dr. Porter That wouldn't be too much help, would it?

JC No, it probably wouldn't. I don't know.

Dr. Porter Now, we've had a Geneticist here from England study my grandfather's people. He could trace them all the way back to Ireland on my Grandfather **Dehart's** side.

JC Oh, is that right? That would be interesting.

Dr. Porter He was tracing some genetic things that he was interested in and came down and interviewed some of them.

JC Oh, yeah? I'll be darned. Yeah, I don't, I don't know if our Porters are related to the ones in **Elliott County** or not. I've, you know, been trying to prove they were and, you know, I looked through the census. I got all the Porters, you know. I saw there was two Henrys, I think. And, uh, I just couldn't make the connection. It looked like some of them came from Virginia about the same time, but, but it's –

Dr. Porter Well, I'd, would say they probably are.

JC Hmm

Dr. Porter We found out in WWII that we did have some relatives from Texas, but –

JC Yeah

Dr. Porter But I don't know where they came from.

JC Hmm

Dr. Porter But, I just really don't know that much about them. I can't think of anyone. Now, this, uh, **Olney? Conn**, she could probably tell you if she's not getting too senile. She knows, she's relation and she knows quite a bit about them.

JC She's, she's a relative of yours?

Dr. Porter Yeah, she goes back, I don't know how close she is, but she knows quite a bit of the family history.

JC Yeah, let's see. **Mrs. Owens** mentioned a **Mrs. Everett Kissinger** on **Christy Creek**?

Dr. Porter Yeah, that must be – I, I don't know her. That must be someone she knew.

JC Yeah, well she claimed way back there, uh, that there was a **Dr. Samuel Porter**.

Dr. Porter Well, now, there were. There were two Doctors here that everybody asked me about. And I didn't know was **Sam and Hiram Porter** that apparently, the real old generations still remember. You know in their eighties or something.

JC You said **Sam & Hiram**?

Dr. Porter Yeah, **Hiram and Sam Porter**. They were brothers I think.

JC They were?

Dr. Porter Yeah, both were Doctors.

JC Were they from Elliott County?

Dr. Porter Well, they practiced medicine here in **Rowan County**, but I don't know where they came from.

JC Wonder how many years back that is?

Dr. Porter Well, let's see –

JC Any guess?

Dr. Porter I would say more than a hundred -

JC Yeah, hmm

Dr. Porter Because most of the people who knew them are in their eighties, and I guess, they were doctors when they were children.

JC Yeah

Dr. Porter Things like that.

JC I'll be darned.

Dr. Porter And that would probably put them up around a hundred years or more, wouldn't it?

JC Yeah

Dr. Porter So that's probably some of the same generation.

JC Yeah, I'll have to check into that family, see what I can find.

Dr. Porter You might be able to get some information there.

JC Yeah, well, I sure appreciate your time.

Dr. Porter Yes, it was nice talking to you. I wish I could've helped a little more. It's interesting to find out some of our ancestors.

JC Yeah it is. Well, let's see, you probably know my Uncle **Ed Porter** over at **Globe**.

Dr. Porter Globe? Well now, let's see. I have some of the family. I don't know Ed personally. I have an uncle named Ed. He's the only –

JC Oh, do you –

Dr. Porter He's the only one living in my dad's side of the family

JC Yeah, huh?

Dr. Porter He lives here in **Rowan County**, too. He's about 73 or 4, I would say.

JC Yeah, I'll be darned.

Dr. Porter But, this other one, I'm sure I've met some of his people, but

JC Yeah

Dr. Porter I have a lot of them as patients, but I have never met him.

JC Yeah, he, he's the one with the tire center over there.

Dr. Porter Well, then, uh, I don't know if he's been to me. Some of that family has over there that runs the tire place.

JC Yeah

Dr. Porter And he's an uncle of yours then?

JC He's my uncle, my dad's younger brother.

Dr. Porter Well, the first opportunity, I'll ask my Uncle Ed, if he knows anything. I doubt if he knows too much about the history, but I'll ask him and see.

JC Well, ok, well, I sure appreciated your time **Dr. Porter**.

Dr. Porter Call me anytime. Nice talking to you.

JC Well, if I ever run us together, I'll sure let you know.

Dr. Porter I sure appreciate it.

JC Laughs

Dr. Porter Bye, Bye

JC Thanks a lot, bye, bye.

End of tape **(9:32)**