

Everett Porter (son of Alex, son of Andrew J. Porter) Track 1 Tape 45 Side 2

JC: Levi's son? (Albert Rush "Bob" Porter)

Everett: He got to be worth more than any Porter of the name I guess.

JC: He did?

Everett: The boys got to stealing from him, first one thing, then another. He didn't have too much when he died. Out on the ridge from HogTown.

JC: How did he get to be so wealthy?

Everett: Defrauding I guess (laughing)(00:27) He went to Wisconsin.

JC: Oh he did? He went up there with the rest of the Porters?

Everett: No, he went up there by himself. Just his family.

JC: Did he go to the same place or a different place in Wisconsin?

Everett: Near Antigo. He went up there in time for that timber business. He went up there and stayed up there about 20 years. He went for 10, and he got tied up there in land. He would buy a boundary of land. He had all kinds of horses. He would swap teams with them there loggers. If they would get one that was hurt, and they couldn't work it, he would swap them one that was able to go. Maybe one of the crippled ones would be worth two of the others. Maybe he would swap even so they could just go right ahead and work.

Everett: His wife died. Oh, he had the awfulest bunch of kids that ever was.

JC: Is that right?

Everett: And the last one, he married her right down here at Lawton Junction. She was a widow woman. He went to breeding her, and she raised a big bunch.

JC: This Bob (Porter) did? So he had two sets of kids then?

Everett: Oh I don't know how many kids he had.

JC: He had s set of kids here, and a set of kids in Wisconsin?

Everett: What's a liven. A heap of em is dead.

JC: You say the name of that place is Antigo?

Everett: I don't think that was close to Antigo. I don't know.

Everett: When they was up there, he owned ranches and everything up there. He swapped a little farm up there for one way up there in one of those upper counties, a feller just told him about it.. That is when he was leaving up there. Just anyway to get rid of it. When they cut the timber, it just went down and nobody wanted it. That was all the way they had of making money up there, that was working in that timber. They cleaned it off, and the wolves took over I guess. (laughing)(3:12)

Will DeBord, he married Uncle John's girl (John C. Porter, son of Andrew J. Porter) over here. He went up, and went to working for Bob Porter. Bob had a big team and a big sleigh to pull his logs into town. Bob may have already had it bought, a half a beef. So he threw his log chains around that beef, and it got dark before he got back to Bob's. The wolves got after him. They just barked like a dog they said. Bob heard them a comin, and they are afraid of a light. Bob lit his light and run out. Will (DeBord) (laughing), his horses, they was afraid of them too. They was running flat down, on that sleigh. He wasn't trying to hold them either, I don't guess, but he thought he would feed em that beef, half a beef, and they was eating that, he would get away. He got down there and his chains was froze, and he couldn't unfasten them. Bob heard em a comin, and he knowed what was up, so he run out with a light, and they wouldn't close on that light, lantern.

And up there, when the mortgage comes due, you can close the next morning. Here you can't. He come back here, and he'd take mortgages on property, first one thing and then another. He thought he could just close it just like he could in Wisconsin. He found out different. (Laughing)

JC: What was your Uncle Jim like? You never said much about your Uncle Jim. What kind of a man was he?

Everett: Well that was Pa's brother. He was a farmer. Stock man.

JC: Stock man? Stock market?

Everett: No, just keeping stock on his farm.

JC: Livestock?

Everett: Ya. Raised a big family. I knowed Andy (son of Jim) better than any of them. Ed taught our school when I was back in school. I got pretty well acquainted with him. He would call me up front every once in a while. (laughing)

JC: He was your cousin, but he was your school teacher too?

Everett: I can recollect it as well if it happened yesterday. We had a habit of calling Geography George H.?(6:15) I don't know how it ever got started. That was in our spelling once. They give it out to me, and I spelled it and I said George H.?(6:30), and I never noticed the difference. I was used to calling it that. He said, say that right. He talked real kind. He called my name and said, call that right. I had to stand there a little bit before I understood what he wanted. I never know'd they were calling it wrong, acting a fool, named it that a way back. (7:03)

JC: What did he make you do? Stand in the corner?

Everett: He had me nearly everywhere.

JC: He was your cousin wasn't he?

Everett: They said he was. (laughing) Me and Fred Gutenberry (7:30) sat together, and we was up before the court every little bit. (laughing)

JC: Well where was this school at?

Everett: It was over at Rock Spring over here.

JC: Was it a log or frame school?

Everett: Big log school sat right across the road down yonder. (7:47)

JC: It was a log cabin.

Everett: I've got the picture of it here somewhere.

JC: You don't have any old pictures of your dad and his brothers do you?

Everett: I've got some pictures of my brothers. I've got one of my dad. Had on sun glasses with black holes in his head.(8:13) He was planting the corn. Edna went out to take his picture, and he turned around there. She took his picture, he had on those sun glasses. No good.

JC: Have you got some pictures of your brothers, you say?

Everett: Not separate, I've got em in groups.

JC: You don't have any pictures of your Uncles, or Aunts?

Everett: No, I was studying a while back, Aunt Martha, Aunt Mary, Uncle George Dwelly, (8:58), Come up to Old 'Fairview. Uncle Steve lived right down there where Roy Parrish lives. Uncle Steve gave the ground where the burying ground is at. They come up there, and they all had their pictures took together. They was about all a liven then, a lot of em anyway. Lawd how I'd like to have one of them. (pictures) My opinion, Harlan's got it, him or Herman one.

JC: Remember I told you I talked to your cousin out there in Robertson county. I talked to one lady who was a daughter in law of Mary Porter and George Dwelly, she was their daughter in law. She had an old picture, and I believe that is probably the one you are talking about.

Everett: Which one?

JC: It shows your five uncles and two of their sisters. It shows Mary Dwelly and another one. They are all in front of a white building. Maybe it is the old church house up there.

Everett: I've just seen Aunt Mary and Aunt Martha.

JC: Aunt Mary was a big woman wasn't she?

Everett: Ya. And Aunt Martha, a little poor woman. Aunt Martha Day and Aunt Mary Dwelly. Old George, he was big. Anyhow 6' and I believe he was over that. Him and her had been somewhere, they grewed up kind of together. He ate a big _____ of apples. (10:33) I guess they was green. It gave him the shits. Pa said he was hittin it about every fence corner. We used to have old crooked rail fence. He said, "I think I've kind of got a touch of the shits." Pa told him, "If that just a touch, I'd hate to have the real shits." (laughing)

JC: Who was that?

Everett: My daddy told him, George Dwelly. He said he had a touch of it. (laughing)

JC: Have you ever heard anything about an old family Bible?

Everett: Harlan or Herman maybe. They got everything, from a toothpick down. 11:30)____He (Alex, son of Andrew Porter) had a box up there he kept all the deeds. It had half a dozen or more deeds in it. When he went there he bought a smaller tract of land, then he kept buying to it. Every time he would buy a piece, he would have another deed.

JC: Your Dad?

Everett: Ya. He had several deeds I know. They got the works.

JC: Could I see those pictures that you've got?

Everett: I think I've got some..... (end of interview)
