

Eleanor starts out asking about Lucy Porter Manning's parents.

Opal: Well they lived on Greenbriar in a big log house. When we were born, mommy had three bothers who were not married. Uncle Russell was nearer Ernest's age. We went to grandma's about once per week and stay all night. Grandma would always make us candy of some kind. Sometimes it was molasses taffy. Sometimes she would pop us corn. Or she would bring down nuts out of the garret? log or apples or something. Or she would let us take back the big old table and play blind fold. Grandma stayed up with us till near midnight and let us play. Any of the grandchildren, and there was some of us always there. And grandpa always had something for us. Now we didn't think a thing. We loved em. Your namesake was really something. She was a grandma that you read about but very seldom seen.

Eleanor: Now as her name Frances?

Opal: Ya, that is where you got the name of Eleanor Frances.

Eleanor: Was her first name Eleanor?

Opal: No, just Frances. Frances Moore Manning.

Eleanor: Was Reverend Moore...

Opal: Yes, James Moore was her father. I reckon, James moire.

Eleanor: The one that had something to do with Daniel Boone?

Opal: Ya.

Eleanor: Ok. I think I remember my dad (Oscar Porter, s/o Sam, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) saying he just traveled with Daniel Boone?

Opal: Well I really don't know. Grandma has told us but I rally just don't remember.

Eleanor: When I was at mother's, I got a story that my dad had written, the year before he died. (2:00)

(4:40) I wanted to ask you about grandpa's parents. (Sam Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)

Opal: Grandpa's parents was uh Alexander Porter, Francis Alexander, they spell it different from a girl. And my grandmother was Laura Fulton. They spell it F-u-l-t-o-n. She died and left 9 children. She was 42 years old.

Eleanor: How did she die?

Opal: TB I think. Poppy (Sam) didn't even remember. He was about the 2nd one from the bottom. He didn't remember. He said the only thing he could remember about her was her hair, she was a blond. That is where we got the blond from. I didn't get this from her. I don't know where I got the gray. (laughing)

Eleanor: So she died and left nine children?

Opal: Grandpa married twice after that. And he married a widow that had seven or eight children and he raised all of them. Three of the children was already married. He and his last wife had three children, Harlan, Herman and Irene, and they're all dead.

Eleanor: But Harlan and Herman lived down on Porter Creek, right?

Opal: Ya.

Eleanor: Growing up, I would hear those names, but I could never make connection as to how they were related.

Opal: Well they were Poppy's half brothers.

Eleanor: I don't ever remember daddy telling me that his grandma died early.

Opal: Well we didn't like Grandpa Porter.

Eleanor: You didn't care for great grandpa?

Opal: Not a bit, but we loved grandpa Manning. Grandpa would always have an apple for us. He always had a big orchard, or a pear or something. Every grandchild that come, he made them think he was saving it for that one. He used psychology on us.

Eleanor: That sounds like my dad. That's the kind of things he did. So maybe that was where he got it.

Opal: It was. We didn't care. Grandpa (Alex Porter) was good to us, but now that I am older, I can understand. He had children the same age of us, and he was old. Naturally he didn't have the affection for the grandchildren that he did for his own. We couldn't understand that.

Eleanor: Did he live somewhere around the area too?

Opal: He lived in the farm adjoining us. The farm right in front of us. There was grandpa Porter's. There is where grandpa Poppy (Sam Porter) was raised.

Eleanor: Not Holbrooks? That's on the right of the farm.

Opal: This was in front. You know where the school building set? Just right through the fence there was his.

Eleanor: Did you have to cross the street to get to his?

Opal: You had to go up the street.

Eleanor: And it is across the street?

Vivian: Of course that house burned.

Eleanor: Oh did it?

Vivian: There is nothing there but the barn. The barn is still there but the house burned, and they built a new house on up farther up the on the hill. I mean Herman did, after all the rest of them was dead and gone. (8:00)

Eleanor: Let's see. You said they (Sam & Lucy?) met at church. And as far as you know, grandma and grandpa only had you 5 children. They never lost any children.

Vivian: No, never lost, she never had an abortion or nothing.

Eleanor: From the time they were married, they had the farm house did they?

Vivian: No. All of us but Russell were born on Greenbriar. Ernest, the oldest was born at grandma's place.

Eleanor: Grandma Manning?

Vivian: In one of her house. They moved in there. That is the way they did back in olden days. They just moved em in with them you know. Then we moved, Oscar was about 14 months old.

Opal: You was born just across the creek.

Vivian: Ya, but we were all born on Greenbriar.

Eleanor: What is Greenbriar?

Vivian: That is a little road that turns off there at that store and goes up there that way up where grandpa and grandma (Manning) lived. Was you never around where grandpa and grandma lived?

Eleanor: I don't guess so.

Opal: No I don't guess you were, because Uncle Tom and Aunt Nell lived there....

Eleanor: Now we were at uncle Tom's and there was a creek that runs in front and you had to go across a swinging bridge.

Opal and Vivian: Ya. (9:18)

Eleanor: We were at Uncle Tom's.

Opal: Now that is our grandma's old place.

Eleanor: I thought that was the same road that you lived on.

Vivian: No it isn't. You turned off right there at that store, and I go on up the road.

Eleanor: There is a store....

Vivian: Right there at the mouth of that road. (9:43) It turns right, you go up Greenbriar they call it.

Of course Porter Creek goes on.

Eleanor: So there is a road still there that goes down beside that house?

Opal & Vivian: Oh ya.

Vivian: They've got a big brick house there now. Don't have no log house.

Eleanor: Oh, then I probably wouldn't even recognize it then.

Vivian: You wouldn't recognize a thing. I went around there and went to the cemetery, but as you said, you wouldn't recognize nothing.

Eleanor: When did they buy the farm house, and all of you moved to the farmhouse?

Opal: When Oscar was 14 months old.

Eleanor: So daddy (Osacr) lived there.....

Opal: That's where he lived and Russell was born there.

Opal: He (Sam Porter) paid \$1500.00 for that farm. And now, if we would want to sell it, we would get \$100,000.00 out of it. The farms are selling out there \$100,000 dollars. The real estate has gone up that much.

Eleanor: Now you don't have as much property now as grandpa had, because some of it has been sold.

Opal: We've just got 68 acres.

Vivian: Nothing sold off but just one lot over in front of the house there.

Opal: Leather wood we learned.....

Vivian: Oh ya, used to own that. (11:07)

Opal: Lot of it sold....

Vivian: I forgot about that.

Eleanor: At what age would my dad (Oscar) have been when grandma and grandpa moved into Ashland?

Opal: Oh, he was in school. He come in here, we all moved in here, we moved up on 13th Street. He got him a little job a selling papers. He would take Russell with him. See Russell was 6 years younger than Oscar. He went to school in here, till they got ready to move back to the farm, then they moved back out there.

Eleanor: And then they stayed out there...

Opal: No, they went with him.

Eleanor: My dad went back out the the farm, right, because they went to school out there. (12:00)

Opal: Hogtown, Elliottsville.

Eleanor: Where he had to walk for 14 miles. (laughing) We heard that for many, many years.
Grandpa, (Sam Porter) you said taught school. Now he taught there at Porter School didn't he?

Vivian: He taught school from the time he was 18 years old. Back then, you had to run your trustees, or you didn't get a school. He taught school long enough that he got a retirement. Back then they had to teach, I think, 35 years before they could get a retirement. But he was a teaching school when him and mommy married.

Eleanor: Did grandma work? Did she teach or anything?

Vivian: She had children and raised a big garden and all that.

Eleanor: At what point did grandma move into Ashland? I know she worked as a care taker for a lady, and lived in Ashland, and grandpa was on the farm.

Opal: Vivian and Ralph moved in with Poppy (Sam Porter) and Mommy come and lived with me. They didn't get along during their old age.

Eleanor: Grandma and Grandpa?

Opal: Uh Huh.

Eleanor: Was that why you moved in with them?

Vivian: We bought half of the place after we come back from...

Eleanor: And then Uncle Ralph helped farm the....

Vivian: Ya.

Eleanor: He raised tobacco.

Vivian: Ya, he raised tobacco and farmed. (13:35)