

# **“THE NIGHT THE GIN” BURNED**

## **Excerpt From “Whodunnit,”**

**The Night the Gin Burned” is an excerpt from an interview with Catherine Porter of Pelham, Navarro County, Texas. The noted video was given permission to be placed on the AncestryThread website. The discussion was conducted in the home of Mrs. Porter, now deceased, to ensure her comfort and to ease any apprehension which may had arisen from such an experience. Notably most interviews are conducted in the home of or the chosen environment of the interviewee. This technique serves as proof of the importance of the endearment factor or simply stated, an interview should belong to the interviewee as opposed to the interviewer. This is a concept highly regarded by the Director of Genealogy, Corsicana Public Library, Dana Stubbs.**

**Having a relaxed unencumbered interviewee is tantamount to trust. When possible let the interviewee select the place. It’s important for the overall outcome of the interview that respect and courtesy is upmost on the minds of the interviewer, camera crew and everyone involved.**

**The site should also reflect the subject of the dialog. Take for instance the 1850’s Haynes home located in Corsicana. A chosen environment for this home could**

represent the earliest for social life. In addition, it would serve as an elegant example of 1850-style perfected for an interview with dialog concerning that era. In essence, it opens the intricate and interesting narrative and backdrop for how Genealogy: Pearls of Wisdom could be envisioned in a different time and place.

One of the best examples in modern scenic artistry on how to conduct an interview has been perfected by Stubbs which includes a video with an exclusive dialog. In this interview Stubbs appears to enrapture the audience by making everybody more genealogically wiser, as the content technique wraps and evolves into Mrs. Stubbs Pearls of Wisdom. Within the highly perfected interview we find a timeline that's first complete with Pearls of Wisdom, and second exemplary of how understanding and wisdom go hand in hand. Equally important, it was created from the oral history of "Pelham, an Interview with Mrs. Catherine Porter." When carefully listened to, we hear the love for Pelham which sounds much like Oz, in the "Wizard of Oz." Pelham, from its early settlers, has always been a deeply rooted place where everyone appears to be happiest when they're checking in on the welfare of everybody else. Equally endearing are the good neighboring arms of Corsicana. With arms that stretch wide similar to Dorothy's in "The Wizard of Oz." The difference here... the yellow brick road would be affectionately called Forks in the Creek. Fans of Oz will recall how Dorothy

**greeted each of her interviewee's while walking the yellow brick road. She allowed each one the time needed to express their oral histories and narratives in the comfort of their chosen environment or home. These are only a few examples for interviewing from a comfortable point of view. There's one other, we don't want to forget memories of the past. The Haynes Home in Corsicana dates back to before the Civil War. A time when there was an eagerness, almost a hunger to hear what someone else had to say. These types of interviews are the best because they're edge of seat riveting. Mrs. Stubbs has revived and replicated her version modernised with the times. The element is now updated for everyone to view on video. In scene one we find Mrs. Stubbs is seated off-camera inside the Porter's home.**

**The FIRST PEARL OF WISDOM: Be a good listener. Always give your subject, AKA the Interviewee, the main focus or CU - (Close-Up). To keep current, it's important that an analysis of how well everything worked previously is conducted at least twice a year. In the short video everything prominent is covered and the analyses is amazingly contained with the suggestion of seasonal weather within the footage.**

**Activity Collection - Good Research Note - New Payroll**  
**In the SECOND PEARL OF WISDOM: The interviewer must come to the interview prepared. Watch and listen closely as Mrs. Stubbs exemplifies focus with Porter as she acknowledges herself as a well-respected and knowledgeable citizen of Pelham. Mrs.**

**Stubbs takes small steps, and gestures, conceived with patience to have the year of the event confirmed by the person who was the actual eyewitness. Only when it's determined that the Interviewee has a memory lapse does Mrs. Stubbs quickly and professionally make an insertion by stating the date. Mrs. Stubbs then moves on to the next question. Five interconnected statements emerge in Mrs. Stubbs' "Pearls of Wisdom."**

**The THIRD PEARL OF WISDOM, Never let the Interviewee feel embarrassed. With the exception of very wise people having incredible intuition, remnants of the 1800s left behind many secondary sources as a constant reminder of the past. The one-of-a-kind recorded first-hand accounts and oral histories exist only as rare moments in time.**

**As an example, there's no one alive today to interview who actually traveled in a ferry boat on the Red River. There's no one left who could possibly bring back memories of a wagon travelling overland. Unbiased recollections would bring the world to a halt if there actually was someone living today who knew or could tell the narratives of the past.**

**Another example: Eyewitness accounts of Red River narratives in the past. There were ferry boats with travellers who actually saw that the river was indeed the color red. These people have all vanished into the great beyond. Watch the video and listen closely at a twentieth century excitement retrieval. Hear how Mrs. Porter stressed as her brother drove with excessive speed and her sister screamed "Everyone was going**

**to die!” as they made their way to the burning Pelham gin. The viewer is given the same intensity as seeing for the first time that the color of the Red River was actually, red. Mrs. Stubbs exhibition of focus specifically on the interview as opposed to the storytelling just happens to be Stubbs — **FOURTH PEARL OF WISDOM: Be careful, do not get so drawn into the storytelling that you forget the purpose of the interview. Life traveling overland would be complacent today, but not in the 1800s. On a ferry boat the captain makes that decision for you. Interviewing is much like travel by ferry boat.****

**The significance of the interviewer is to overarch a better feel for what’s important. In genealogy, learning new words like patrilineal and matrilineal are good when you have full comprehension of their meaning. Gentle coaching is good for helping the interviewee to have their own final say or verbal confirmation. Which brings us to our fifth and **FINAL PEARL OF WISDOM: Remember to write names down. Mrs. Stubbs sealed the deal by asking for the names of Mrs. Porter’s brother and sister. We learn from the video that Mrs. Porter sister’s name was Martha, and her brother was called Booker T. A great interview to watch in under 10 minutes and an Interviewee phenomenal success!****