

For the Mill Book In Anselma

Memories of Mary (Schiavone) Szabo

I was born in Beyers, Pa. Next to Route 100 on top of a hill overlooking the road and railroad looking North and to the South is a creek with a big drop from the lane to the house. My mother used to take the wash down a steep hill for rinsing and come back up the hill with a basket of rinsed clothes on top of her head like you see in the movies etc. Also She had a full bucket of water on each hand. What a life, also to the south of the house was the graphite mine.

My mother had six children 4 girls and two sons, She used to cook lunch for the mine workers. Baked bread which She also shared with a hobo who lived across the main road in the woods. I remember him when he put the coffee pot on the fire. In the winter time we supplied him with some apples, which we stored in the Fall under the bridge on some rocks. He never stole any. In the winter the neighbor who owned the woods would let him sleep in the barn.

We moved to Anselma on the farm next to Lionville railroad station. This was in 1936 when the Mill of Anselma was still in operation. We used the mill.



We attended the grade school in (walked) Anselma and then to Chester Springs Junior High by rail to Rottenboaghs garage, then took the road.

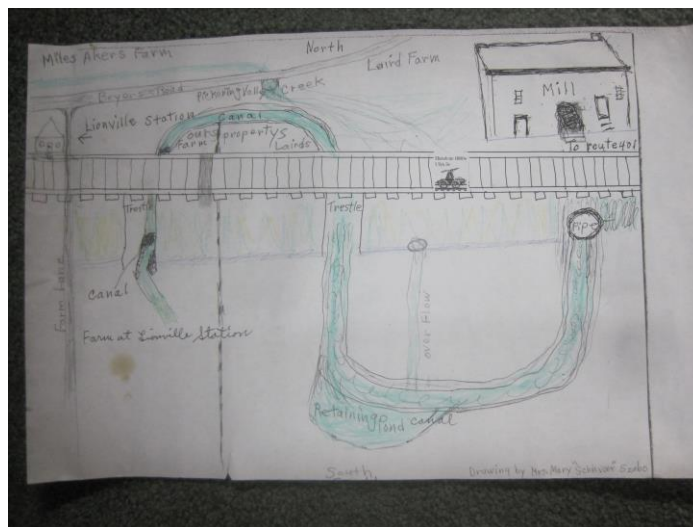
I used to ride horses until a sledding accident.

We would walk to school by way of the railroad tracks; also when we attended Chester Springs High 7th & 8th grade. Then to Downingtown High by bus. Hoorah!

When we attended the Anselma school we used to pass the Mill at Anselma, down the lane to conestoga Pike which is now 401.

In the winter walking down the railroad was rather treacherous especially when the North wind was furious When we got to school if enough students didn't show up. We warmed & had to tirug back home. What an experience

When we lived on the farm the railroad crossed over the corner of our property; we had to cross the rails to farm the corner which was next to the canal which supplied the Mill at Anselma; we crossed the trssele over the canal on our way to school; which we dreded, we were afraid we were going to fall in as the ties were far apart.



We moved to Kimberton in 1936. (1936 mentioned above as moving to Anselma)?

I lived in Phoenixville, Pa since 1941. At Beyers, Pa they had a turntable for the engine of the train to turn around. Small store along the road between the road & railroad We bought sugar, salt, candy & other items of necessity there, penny candy was good.

My father took me to the Post office to order shoes from Sears & Roebuck Catalog. There was a separation between part of the room. The catalog was up on a counter and in the back I vaguely remembering a table in the right corner. I suppose there was a stove in the back to heat the place and make hot beverages.

There was a railroad station on the right of the railroad East side, where you boarded the train, the delivered packages and mail there. It was next to the conestoga road; near White's lane.

We liked to shop at the General Store, It was unique.

My parents had a General Store before I was born, at that time they lived in Shamokin, Pa.

Married in 1944 during the war. My husband was in the Army Air Corp. We had a military wedding and returned with him to the State where he was stationed, some happenings were nice & some not so good. It was a good experience.

Raised two daughters, one lives in Ca. and one in Phoenixville, Pa.

Mary "Schiavone" Szabo

Born 1-14-1920

I met Mary Collins Griffith last summer (2002) at the mill. We really had much to talk about. We remembered the past vividly. She's such a lovely person. She has grandchildren & great grandchildren. Michele Fiefer introduced us.

Besides gardening I like music, singing dancing and bird watching. I wish I had my mother's good singing voice. When I hear music, it is hard for me to sit still. I'm also adventures.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary (Schiavone) Szabo