

**Athena Bowman's interview with Flo Bowman**  
**Interview date December 26,1997**

**Me: Hi this is Athena Bowman interviewing Flo Bowman**

**Me: When and wear were you born?**

**Nana: The eastern coast of Pennsylvania between Reading & Alantown east the southeast about four hours away from New York. I was born in the woral area the name of the town is Longsville just a railroad station and a few house and a post office. We did have cement paved two-lane high way. That was very unusual at that time.**

**Me: When and wear were you born?**

**Nana: August 29,1919. I was born on a farm there were nine children in our family. There was ten but one was still born. My mother was just 45 when she died. So she had children just about every two years.**

**Me: What was your nation anniesterie. We were born on a farm most of the people in school were born on farms. There was like potato picking day we could say home cause we had about an acre witch, was a big day. We were allowed to stay home and pick the potatoes that happened after school stated. My mother had a big truck full witch she caned all her food or dried it sun dried it she would put on a screen something like a window screen, and put on top of a porch and covered it with a blouse so the flies wouldn't get to it. The flies like to get at the corn; she dried corn, manly corn and did some apples. She dried beans and it took days for her to dried beans. She covered them at night so they wouldn't get any dew on them. She caned all her vegetable she caned all kinds of pickles. My dad would butcher; we had animals we had two horses. Know tractors cause it wasn't that big of a farm. But one horse was very old she was a beautiful white horse. We could ride her when we were young. She would walk us to school, which was a mile, and there was know clearing of snow this was in the country (as she laughed). And if the snow got to deep like a snowstorm he would come with Dolly and the sled. The kids down the road about a mile we would wait of them then all of us would go to school well you didn't want to walk by your self, Because there no houses for about three- fourths of a mile. It was a wood area we would be scared, there wasn't that much traffic. But there were some cars.**

they foil different parts, like tongue, when its cooked right. And we left the farm and we did not have electricity till I was about your age when we did get electricity we really didn't miss it, because we didn't have it we weren't use to it. We almost learn all the children in the neighborhood (the area of a mile). We always learned to swim, cause there was a lot of damns around witch there was many hole that been dug out that had that orange red color. Then there was a lot of fresh water sprigs, the damns were built in and the damns down from our barn and from were we keep our cattle is were we learned how to swim but it was very deep in the center it was about 90 feet deep. We could never go swimming alone, we could only go out so far and you had to learn how to swim. The schoolhouse and then the teacher she was every body favorite schoolteacher they had first second, third and then they had another room a big room and three of the class were in a room about the size of a good size house. And then they had another room were they had 4,5,6, grade then the upstairs was 7 and 8 grade, and 9,10,11Th. And there was four big rooms and then the 12Th grade we had to be bused to a town that was about 20 miles a way. And that was the only time we were bused. And the another times we had to walk. That was a big deal, because you were going to school with all different people we didn't know any of those people this was a long way a way and it got all the people for the area.

Me: How much did you have to pay?

Nana: I don't think we paid any thing. We had to be bused to school they didn't have a 12 grade was a rule that you had to go to a certain level this was a big deal because there might be hundred kids in that class all in one room. Were there was three classes, 1,2,3, all in one room by the same teacher. And this teacher her name was Mrs. Mayberry she was our schoolteacher. There was about six damns around your area there we didn't swim in them all cause they weren't cleaned out. They were to dangerous but, any way this Mrs. Mayberry she had her family had just a little cabin, for her to spend the summer there, and it was wrote on one of those damns. And we would all go over to that one damn she wanted use to come so we could learn how to swim. Because we had so many damns around you could drowned very easy in those damns but, any way what I'm getting at is that the schools were very different

**Me: Nationality?**

**Nana: Going back to are mode of living. At that time we were in the family I was the second youngest out of nine. My bother Billy was the youngest. We baked our own bread two times a week along with the older girls. And baked cakes and pies and stuff like that. They did have them at the store but we never bought store bought bread we didn't have the money at the farm it was not a big farm. But we had hogs and we had cow we would have our own milk. I never had to walk the cows, because I was one of the youngest. We had rabbits my brother and I had to take care of the rabbits. We would eat the rabbits we raised them to eat they, were pets but not pets like you have. We didn't keep them in the house they had there little hutch. And then we had chickens; we got our eggs that way. We had apples we had an orchard, we had different kind of apples in the basement. We had binds were we put potatoes, apples. And that lasted us the whole winter. And every spring we would pick strawberries and make home made strawberry jam. And then we had an ice cream freezer that you had to turn by hand. We always had strawberry ice cream, then we would have pineapple ice cream and that was my favorite cause we didn't get it very often. But our Sunday school church was about a mile away. The only thing my mom and dad ever bought that I remember very was on Saturday night. Bread and cake and good stuff like that, and on Saturday night on his way home he discovered a place were we could get all the bread we wanted store bought bread witch was pretty good to us because we didn't get it very often. On Saturday night we would always get hot-dogs. We didn't go to the store for all the goodies. But then of course we would get penny candy.**

**Me: Your Nationality?**

**Nana: My mother was German but she really came from Holland, or Dutch. All of us spoke Pennsylvania Dutch before we spoke English. When I went to school New Berry Little School but I learned English and, that's why I speak this way today, was because I had to learn English. I had to learn it was the rule in the German oriented area. The Amish people were very close to our area. Every fall dad would (he had hogs). He would kill a young cow and we eat them a beef. We had a big fireplace out side and in the kettle they would make sausages and then they smoked it and then when it smoked like that then you really don't have to refrigerate. And we had different thing we had scrabble, witch you don't know any thing about. You would use parts of your cow as you butcher and put it in there and jell it so it goes in to jell from there**

*Army nurse?*

*3*