

## Driving through Deep Creek Valley



*View of Deep Creek Valley from Salem Cemetery*

Our visit in Buck Run was terrific. Aunt Mill, Dorothy, and Pope were just incredibly hospitable and helpful. After leaving Aunt Mill's and her scrumptious Peanut Butter Pie, Cousin Dorothy gave us a tour of the valley. Deep Creek Valley is a picturesque valley with rolling hills, running through northern Schuylkill county. We went through the towns of Buck Run, Glendauer, Mabel, Weishampfl, and Hegins.

As we drove through the valley, Dorothy first showed us the little village of Glendauer. Glendauer is where Great Grandma Smeltzer Zimmerman's green double house is, as well as the now reclaimed coal mine where Grandpa Elias worked. We also saw the old valley road, which was very twisty and curvy to allow horses up the mountainside. Finally, we saw the "Big" House that Great Grandpa and Grandma Charles and Emma Kessler lived, and the little cottage that Grandpa Elias built prior to Mom's birth. The little cottage was only two rooms when Grandpa Elias built it; some rooms have since been added. The current resident, Helen Harner, knew Eli and the family and was very happy to share her home with us.

If there is a place where proverbial time stands still, it would be Deep Creek Valley. We walked the same paths that five generations of Kesslers travelled. The Pennsylvania "Dutch" people living in the valley were simply delightful. Not only was there a lovely lilt to their speech, but they seemed to relish the art of long and meaningful conversation.



*Lynn standing in front of the small house that Grandpa Kessler built, and where mom was born.*