

*For she who used to be enslaved, but now is simply free,
She who used to not have rights, but now has the same as you and me.*

*She was bought by the “Pages” and helped them like crazy,
But when she was free she helped them still. She lived on for a long,
Long time. That is the life of “Dill Symonds.”*

Poem by

Ellah Belotte

Third Grader, 2022

Ms. O’Connor’s class

Riverside Elementary School, Danvers, Mass.

Ellah Belotte is one of 268 Danvers third graders who participated in the Danvers Historical Society and Rebecca Nurse Homestead History Week Program in 2022.

Each third grader receives their own free ***Our Town*** activity book due to generous donations from Danvers Kiwanis and Salem’s Odd Fellows Fraternity Lodge # 118.

Our Town is filled with stories about people of Danvers including Dill Page Rudloff Symonds, who was an enslaved child in 1766 and later became free in 1783. One of the things the students discover about Dill Symonds is that she loved to take walks in the woods to be inspired to write her poetry. One of the activities for her story asked students, who enjoy writing, to write a poem or story about Dill Symonds.

When Ellah and her classmates visited Danvers Historical Society during the field trip, she gave us her wonderful poem she wrote about Dill Symonds. We immediately asked Ellah and her family for permission to post her poem on our website. They graciously gave us their permission.

Thank you, Ellah for sharing your poem with us and we hope you will write many other poems in the future. If Dill Symonds was alive today, she would be very proud of you.

Danvers Historical Society Third Grade History Program Volunteers