

## **Museum of History and Holocaust Education Legacy Series**

### **Edith Gray Interview**

**Conducted by James Newberry**

**February 2, 2018**

**Transcribed by Armando Andre Betancourt**

Born in Canton, Georgia, in 1925, Edith Gray met her future husband in high school. Before he shipped out to the Pacific in World War II, Gray accepted his marriage proposal. In his absence, she attended business school and worked as a secretary at Canton Cotton Mills. After the war Gray settled in Rome, Georgia, with her husband and worked as a homemaker.

### **Full Transcript**

Interviewer: All Right! This is James Newberry, and I am here with Edith Gray on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, at the Sturgis Library at Kennesaw State University. We are going to give this a try a second time. [Laughs]. Thank you for being here Ms. Gray, and do you agree to this interview?

Gray: Yes, I do.

Interviewer: Well, thank you so much. So, we will just start at the very beginning. Could you state your full name?

Gray: Mary Edith Gray.

Interviewer: And what was your maiden name?

Gray: Bottoms.

Interviewer: Ok and what is your birthday?

Gray: March the 26<sup>th</sup>, 1925.

Interviewer: And where were you born?

Gray: Canton, Georgia.

Interviewer: Ok, and you mentioned that you would like to tell us your husband's name and his birthday.

Gray: Yes. His name was Arthur Richard Gray. He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. For one year he lived there. His birthday was June the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1925.

Interviewer: Ok, so you all were very close in age. A few months.

Gray: Yes, Three- three- for three months I was boss. [Laughs]

Interviewer: [Laughs] So Ms. Gray could you tell me your parents' names?

Gray: Eddie and Margaret Bottoms.

Interviewer: And what did they do for a living?

Gray: My father was with American Bakeries. He sold bread and he had to wear a white uniform all summer long and in those days, we did not have a washing machine. Mother had the black pot outside and every Monday morning she would wash his uniform and she had to iron them all. And he worked six days a week until he was 65 [years old].

Interviewer: Well, I, you said- so did he like go door to door?

Gray: No, to grocery stores.

Interviewer: Ok.

Gray: Uh huh. And every night he had to count his money and send in and pay for everything that he got the next day.

Interviewer: And you said your mother washed his uniforms.

Gray: Oh yes. We did not have a washing machine to begin with and then we got a washing machine later on.

Interviewer: And did your mother work mostly in the home?

Gray: Oh yes. All the time in the home, took care of us.

Interviewer: Now, how many siblings did you have?

Gray: I have two sisters; I am the middle daughter.

Interviewer: And what were their names?

Gray: Eileen was two years older than I am, and Betty is eight years younger than I am.

Interviewer: So, tell me a little bit about your childhood and growing up years with those two sisters.

Gray: We did not have many toys. We used a Sears-Roebuck catalog to make my paper dolls and to make furniture for the paper dolls. And I remember one Christmas we went to my aunts, and I got a bandana for Christmas. I did not know it was- we were in a depression because I was happy, and my family was happy and- so that's- I did not know until years later Mother made all of our clothes. She made my underwear and everything during those days. And looking back on it I realized that we were in a depression. [Laughs]

Interviewer: Did you notice that other people had more money or less money than your family?

Gray: Not when I was younger.

Interviewer: Did you have a big extended family?

Gray: Yes. Mother had five brothers and sisters and Daddy- there were nine in Daddy's family and so it was a large family.

Interviewer: And how often would you get together with those family members, with those cousins, aunts, and uncles?

Gray: I would visit them every summer.

Interviewer: So, tell me about the house you grew up in.

Gray: It was a wooden frame house, four rooms with a hall down the middle. We did not have a furnace to begin with we had just a stove- a wooden stove to cook on and a heater, and then later on we got a furnace in the house and Daddy added on a room in the back and it was larger and more comfortable.

Interviewer: And was your house in town or out in the country?

Gray: No, it was in town. We were about half a mile I guess from the school. I walked to school every day.

Interviewer: And how large was Canton in those days?

Gray: It was very much small- it was smaller than it is- it is large now but it- it was smaller. Seven or eight thousand [people] maybe, I do not know. And I went to Canton Highschool, and I was an honor graduate from Canton Highschool in the Beta Club. Richard went there too of course.

Interviewer: Well, tell me about Richard.

Gray: You want to know when I met him? [Laughs] Ok, he grew up in Kentucky. After he was one years old his family moved back to Kentucky which was their home, and he lived on the farm until he was eleven years old, and he said he did not want to be a farmer. From the time he was in the sixth grade he wanted to be a doctor. And he went to a one room schoolhouse until he was eleven years old, and so when he finished medical school his teacher wrote him a letter and said that he had gone farther than any person that she had ever taught. And- but when he moved to Georgia, he was fifteen. All the youths sing in the choir at First Baptist Church on Sunday night, and I cannot carry a tune, but I sat up there with him. And so, we looked up and there sat this handsome young man in the back of the church on Sunday night. And of course, we all loved the new man in town. So anyways, that was when I first met him that Sunday night, but he dated other people first, and- but I did not date until I was sixteen, but he was the first guy I ever dated that came to my house in a car and got me. My first date.

Interviewer: Really? So, what is- what did you do on that first date?

Gray: I do not remember. [Laughs]. We went to the movies some, but as I grew up, I never went to the movie. I never remember going to the movie growing up, but after I started dating we would go to the movie in town.

Interviewer: Now what age where you when you went on that first date with him do you recall?

Gray: I was sixteen, I was sixteen.

Interviewer: Would you have been able to go on a date earlier than that?

Gray: No.

Interviewer: Ok, and what did your parents think of him?

Gray: They liked him, they liked him.

Interviewer: And after you went on that first date what course did your relationship take?

Gray: Well, we both dated other people some during that time, and- but this was before he went into service, so he skated- his father had a hatchery he was the first to have- first hatchery in Cherokee county, and he raised broilers he had a million broilers at one time and raised the hens that laid the eggs that he used in the hatchery. So, he was a real entrepreneur a real visionary, and he had very little formal schooling. But he went very far in life, but when they were hatching the baby chicks at the hatchery someone had to be there to make sure if the electricity went off you had to keep the incubators moving. And so, someone had to spend the night there. So, Richard would spend the night there, and then he would skate to my house and we would walk to town to the movie then he would skate back to the hatchery afterwards to spend the night.

Interviewer: Was he roller skating?

Gray: Roller skating, yes.

Interviewer: Ok wow. So, he did not want to waste one second.

Gray: Well- we- you cannot- well things were rationed during that time. Tires were rationed, gas was rationed. Sugar. Shoes. I remember the margarine we used was white and you would add yellow coloring to it. It was not like the margarine we have now, but it was very different during that time.

Interviewer: So, you are saying that Richard would roller skate as opposed to driving. Because of the gas.

Gray: Yes, because of the gas and the tires. Yeah.

Interviewer: So, he was still pretty young. Sixteen or so but he still had a lot of responsibilities.

Gray: Yeah, well probably at that age he was probably seventeen, but yeah a lots of responsibility.

Interviewer: And you said he always wanted to be a doctor; did he ever explain his reasoning behind that.

Gray: He did not want to be a farmer. [Laughs]. He had enough of that, but he always wanted to be a doctor. And I knew that from the very first.

Interviewer: Well, tell me about his family and the home they lived in.

Gray: Well, they lived in a lovely place in Holly Springs, and he had lots of responsibility even on Sunday night when we dated he would have to milk the cow before he could come have a date with me. [Laughs].

Interviewer: There was always something to do.

Gray: Uh huh, always something to do.

Interviewer: So, you talked about this rationing that was going on. Clearly while you were still in high school the war had started-

Gray: Yes.

Interviewer: So, let us talk a little about the 1930's, the late 1930's. How much did you know about the war going on in Europe?

Gray: I guess I did not keep up with the lots. We just had a radio, no television back then, and I was interested some in it but not like I have grown to be later on.

Interviewer: And was the radio going on all the time or did your family gather for certain hours to listen?

Gray: You could turn it on at any time, but probably just at certain times.

Interviewer: Do you remember any particular programs on the radio you listened to or any news announcements?

Gray: No, I do not remember any.

Interviewer: Let us talk about your memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor, how did you get that news?

Gray: We were- every Sunday afternoon the teenagers would meet at the drug store on the corner, and we would have an ice cream cone or a coke or something, and we were- I was there that Sunday afternoon and I suppose he (Richard) was there too, and we heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor. So, we knew that was going really change things, and this was in '41 (1941) yeah. And I graduated in '42 (1942) and he had another year in Kentucky he had gone to Prima (Primary) school, so he was a year behind me in high school, but our classes were very close together friendly, and so anyways when he became 18 he was drafted. He went down to Atlanta to sign up and when he got there, he signed up for the Navy instead of going into the Army. So that is the reason he signed up for the Navy.

Interviewer: So why- what do you think- how do you think he made that decision?

Gray: I do not know why he made that decision, whether he just- I just do not know.

Interviewer: How close were you with him at that time?



Gray: We were dating pretty regularly by that time, yeah.

Interviewer: How did you feel about him being drafted?

Gray: Well, I knew it was going to change everything, and of course every family in Canton had somebody in service so it was kind of the norm at that time.

Interviewer: Did you feel any fear?

Gray: Oh yes, oh yes.

Interviewer: And you had two sisters, so no brothers to be drafted.

Gray: No brothers to be drafted, nuh uh.

Interviewer: Let us talk about your graduation. So, you said you graduated from high school in '42 (1942).

Gray: In '42 (1942) I was news editor of the *Green and Gold* the paper in school.

Interviewer: Oh yeah?

Gray: And a very happy time. Lots of close friends that we stayed close to all these years, and Richard and I went to Atlanta to the Beta Club Convention he was a member of the Beta Club too. At the hotel, I forget where we stayed but we had our first picture made together at the Grey Hound bus station. [Laughs]. And- so- anyways when he went to service, I wrote him every day. And I think that kept him going, but he went to Great Lakes first and then he went to St. Auburns in New York and worked in an operating room. And so, when he was going to be sent overseas his parents and I were going to New York to see him because he could not come home. And at the last minute for some reason his parents could not go so his sister, who was 14 years old, much taller than I was, they said she could go with me. I had never ridden a train, and so Wanda and I rode a train to New York. Slept in a berth, and he got us a room at a private home there

in New York. And so everyday Wanda and I would go into town and sightsee while he worked and then he would meet us downtown at night and we would go to a show or something together. And we were there four or five days I guess, and so on the last- the last night that we were- before- that we were going to see him Wanda had not taken any comfortable shoes to New York I had taken some cloth sandals and so she had gotten blisters on her feet and we had walked to the zoo that day I think, and we went back to the train station to meet Richard. And we were supposed to meet him in front of a restaurant. I learned one of my lessons that has stayed with me all my life. Be sure you know when you are going to meet somebody and what time. We waited in front of a restaurant for an hour, and he did not come. There were millions of white, little sailors all over the train station, and Wanda said, "I cannot walk another step". And so, she went out front and leaned up against one of the columns and she said "I cannot do it, I cannot leave town without seeing Richard again". And so, I went back in and I was at the top of an escalator and I looked down and he was standing in front of a different restaurant. He had been waiting one floor and we were waiting on the other floor. And anyway we got together and had dinner and went back to the house that night. And so, he went up to the room and visited with us for a while and he stayed until after midnight. And that night he asked me to marry him, and it was D-Day. June the 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944.

Interviewer: And you were very young still at the time.

Gray: Yes, I was 19 (years old). I was 19.

Interviewer: So, what did you tell him?

Gray: I told him yes. [Laugh]

Interviewer: So, was it- I know that happened a lot, people would get engaged right before someone was going to leave, what was the motivation for that? Why do you think people did that? Or why did you do it?

Gray: Well, I was in love with him. I was in love with him, and it probably gave him security I do not know to think that someone would be waiting for him when he got home. So- anyway so we left the next morning we saw him after midnight, and then we did not see him the next morning. So, he went to the Pacific he was on an aircraft carrier, and he saw the flag that got raised in Iwo Jima. He was at Okinawa, and they

would bring the wounded back on the ship for them to take care of. He helped bury many people, at sea he played taps for them when they had the burial service, and- so he had quite a life.

Interviewer: So, let us talk about his service. Was he a medic?

Gray: Yes. Yes, he was.

Interviewer: Ok so did he mostly stay onboard ship?

Gray: He stayed onboard ship he did not get off.

Interviewer: Did he have specific memories, or did he share stories of wounded soldiers or what he had to do in those situations?

Gray: I do not remember any particular stories, but I would write him every day. We used air grams which was fold up paper and they could be censored. And his mail had to be censored to me too during that time. And um- and he came August the 15<sup>th</sup> of 44'-45'(1945) he was home on leave and of course the war in Europe was over in April and May that year, and we went to Atlanta to get my wedding rings. And as we were coming home from Atlanta with the wedding rings, we heard on the radio that the war with Japan was over on August the 15<sup>th</sup> of 45' (1945).

Interviewer: So, did he have to go back?

Gray: He had to go back and he was put on another ship he served on the Bunker Hill to begin with and then the Bayfield. Bayfield was a transport ship so they had to go back and bring the soldiers back from the Pacific. And he got home in April of 46' (1946). And we were married June the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 46' (1946) three months after he got home.

Interviewer: So, I want to go back just for a little bit to the trip to New York. How did you feel going to New York? I assume it was your first trip.

Gray: It was my first trip, well I had been to Florida maybe, but not much else. My family did not travel, and to look back now and realize that Momma and Daddy let me go, course they thought I was going with his parents to begin with. To let me go with Wanda, I had to ride a bus to Atlanta to catch a train. Never been on a train. That was amazing that they let me do that.

Interviewer: What was life like on the train?

Gray: Oh I enjoyed it. They had good food and we slept in berths, and it was a new experience.

Interviewer: Where you able to sleep overnight?

Gray: Yes, yes. It took all night to get there.

Interviewer: And who else was on the train? Was there a lot of soldiers or civilians?

Gray: More civilians. I did not see many soldiers on that train.

Interviewer: Do you remember the stops along the way?

Gray: No.

Interviewer: Ok and when it came into New York where did it arrive, do you remember?

Gray: Uh, [Laughs] the name escapes me right now it was where I met him for the restaurant.

Interviewer: Grand Central?

Gray: Yeah, yeah Grand Central station.

Interviewer: So that must have made quite the impression.

Gray: Oh, it was. The whole New York made quite the impression, but we would find our way around and sight see. We saw more tv shows, I mean we saw the shows, and we saw *The Follies*.<sup>1</sup>

Interviewer: That must have been very exciting. So, you got engaged and then he went to the Pacific, so you came back to Canton.

Gray: Yes that is right.

Interviewer: And what did you do at that point? You were graduated but what did you do?

Gray: I went to a business college first then I came back and a neighbor up the street said there was an opening at the main offices for Canton cotton mills. And so I went there and I got the job. I was secretary to the secretary at the Canton cotton mills they were two large mills they made denim. I do not know if they had anything connected to the service, to the Army but uh- I had to analyze the pay roll. I had to list everybody and list their job description, how much they paid an hour so they could do how much money was spent on each job at the cotton mill. And so I have always loved figures, and I always want to balance everything to the penny. And a penny still means a lot to me. [Laughs]

Interviewer: And so how long were you working at that job?

Gray: I worked there well until he got out of service, lets see. Two years I guess. He came home one time on furlough, and I looked up and he was standing, I did not know that he was coming, he was standing out there in the foyer of the cotton mills office. I looked up and he had a mustache. By that night he had shaved off the mustache. [Laughs]

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<sup>1</sup> Most likely Ziegfeld Follies of 1943 based on time and location: <https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-production/ziegfeld-follies-of-1943-1286>

Interviewer: [Laughs] He must have seen the look on your face.

Gray: Oh, he did. He did. [Laughs]

Interviewer: So, you were working there for two years. Do you remember your hours? When would you go in?

Gray: Yes I would work in the day time.

Interviewer: So how much money did you make?

Gray: A hundred and something dollars a month. And then- uh yeah.

Interviewer: Did you save it, or did you spend it?

Gray: I save some and I bought a radio with a record player in it, and I bought a cedar chest and that was all that we had when we got married. [Laughs]. But I saved some. I bought war bonds and he bought some war bonds. He would save enough send some money home to his mother and she would buy bonds with it. But we did not have very much when we got married.

Interviewer: And what was the benefit of buying war bonds? Why were people motivated to do it?

Gray: To help the army. To help the government.

Interviewer: Was there any- would you see any money back from that?

Gray: Oh yes you could cash them in. Which we did later on.

Interviewer: Ok, so you were working there for two years was it mostly men you were working with?

Gray: Men and ladies. All the young men had gone. You know it was only older men that worked there. And uh- it was a very wonderful place to work. It was the headquarters of both cotton mills. Never had any problems there.

Interviewer: And you said you were secretary there to the secretary. Was that secretary a man or a woman?

Gray: A man. A man. The Jones family and they were very outstanding in Canton in fact they owned just about everything.

Interviewer: So, ok so your husband Richard comes back in 46' (1946) and you got married in June.

Gray: June the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 46' (1946)

Interviewer: Tell me about your wedding.

Gray: It was at my house. Mother had had surgery, major surgery about a month before so I was working and I had to get ready for the wedding and get the house in order because she was not able to do very much. But we just had a small family wedding, and a friend played some music. And I had a friend to sing and his brother loaned us his convertible to go on our honeymoon for two weeks. Which was wonderful, but he went out and made sure nobody wrote on the car, and if they wanted to write anything they had to write on the cardboard. And they put tin cans on the back of the car, and so we just had a little reception at the house and when we left people followed us all the way to Marietta. We were going to Atlanta to the Biltmore for our first night, and people were still following us. And so we turned to go towards Cartersville to lose them and we lost them, and then we turned around and went back to the Biltmore and stayed one night. And then we went through the Smokies, and I went up to Kentucky to meet all of his relatives. They were all up there so we were gone for two weeks.

Interviewer: So, you met his relatives on your honeymoon.

Gray: Yes.

Interviewer: And how was that? How was meeting all of those?

Gray: It was fine. They were his aunts and uncles. And then we came home and his parents were going to be gone so we stayed at his parents' house for two or three weeks with his one younger brother and sister. And um- Richard was working for his father that summer and I was still working and so we had that and then we stayed a month or two at my house before we went to Atlanta. And uh- he had gotten into Emory, and um- when we went down to find a place to live, all these soldiers. You could not find an apartment to rent. We thought his father would have to put a down payment on a house and we would have to rent out some of it to make the payments on it. But at the last minute they moved a hundred trailers on to the campus of Emory. They were about maybe eighteen feet long, just tiny. No bathroom. Our first year of marriage and we had to use a community bathroom and a community laundry house. So we lived in that trailer for a year. It was like a playhouse. We had a little ice box we had to buy ice, we had a little fuel oil pump up thing for the stove, and we opened up the sofa in the back and that took up all the bedroom in the back. Our closets were about this wide, and we had a little sofa up front and we had a little folding table and two chairs. And so we lived that way for a year, but the people we met there were- are our lifelong friends.

Interviewer: Were they service people? Ex-service people?

Gray: Yes. They were- they were veterans that were there uh huh. And then after a year they built Thompson Hall. Which was efficiency apartments, one big room with a little kitchen maybe. Four by six as you walked through going into the room. A bathroom and one little closet. And we lived there for six years. In that one room, and so- uh I made a cover for the sofa, and I did the drapes, and I made Richard a corduroy sports jacket. And we lived there, and he would study in the room. We would have my radio, he bought me earphones and a long extension cord so I could walk anywhere in the apartment while he studied, and I could listen to the radio or whatever. So that was great. So we went to the---- on Sunday afternoon that you did not have to pay to go to. So we did not have any money so we would go to the- we would ride the- the first year we would ride the street cars out to Emory we did not have buses, but after that we had buses. But we would ride the streetcar down to the pops concert and go for free and that was great.

Interviewer: So, I assume most of his time was studying.



Gray: Always studying. He finished he had to start on his undergraduate work so he finished in three years going around the clock. He worked at Central Hide Emory hospital to make a little money. At that time you had to auto claim everything, nothing was disposable. You did not- you saved everything. So he worked up there and he made a little money during that time. We were on the GI Bill but uh- we were saving, we would get on it for the tuition and we would save, he wanted to go to medical school so we would save it for medical school. And so, we lived on what I made, I probably made 175 dollars maybe a month in Atlanta.

Interviewer: What were you doing?

Gray: I was the secretary to the owner of an oil equipment company, and I took shorthand and during that time it was a manual typewriter at the time. And I did all of Richard's papers on a manual typewriter and they had to be perfect. If you made one error than you had to start over again. So he wrote papers in medical school and I would have to have it, it would have to be perfect with all those foot notes on there.

Interviewer: So, this job you were doing where was that company located?

Gray: It was downtown in Atlanta, and I would ride the bus downtown in Atlanta. See he finished and we stayed in this efficiency apartment until he finished medical school. Diane-- we did not have any children until his junior year of medical school, and we had Diane. We gave her a corner of the room, we put in a folding screen. She had a baby bed and a bassinette. And we lived there until she was eighteen months old. When she was eight months old the girl next door kept her, and I went back to work for a year to get us through medical school. And the girl would put her to her own bed for a nap because you could hear through the walls so she would take a nap in her own bed, and she would keep her until I got home. So, we did have a washing machine and a dryer downstairs and an ironing board. I could go down there and get away from the apartment some.

Interviewer: So, there was some relief?

Gray: Uh huh [Laughs]

Interviewer: I want to quickly ask about those trailers that they brought in for people to stay in. Do you know who brought those in? Was that the university or the Navy or something?

Gray: I am sure the university had to get them in. Yeah, they were everywhere, and the friends- one of the friends we met down there after we came to Rome we lived next door to them [Laughs] So it was wonderful.

Interviewer: And you said that people had a hard time finding places to live-

Gray: Oh yes.

Interviewer: Did they have a hard time finding jobs, did you have a hard time finding a job?

Gray: No, I think I got mine through an agency, but all the wives were working and the husbands were going to school.

Interviewer: When did Richard finish medical school?

Gray: In 53' (1953). He finished college in 49' (1949) then medical school in 53' at Emory. And then he went to Grady for five years to major in surgery. And that is when we moved on to Clark Howell near Georgia Tech which was low rent. We paid the lowest rent you could pay, eighteen dollars a month, but he was only making ten dollars a month and the second year he made twenty dollars a month, the third year thirty dollars a month, the fourth year forty dollars a month. The fifth year we went to New Grady's and we made enough to live on, but we had saved every penny we could we never went to a movie, we did not go out to eat. I made all the clothes for the children and cooked everything from scratch we ate lots of spam and ham. So we lived on a shoestring.

Interviewer: Now you were making all these clothes, is that something you had learned from your mother?

Gray: Yes, I took homemaking in high school but once I started sewing, she could not please me. Everything had to be perfect, it had to be matched just right, and I would look at a readymade dress and I would put some patterns together and copy it. So I was making all my dresses back then.

Interviewer: Are you a perfectionist?

Gray: A perfectionist? I think so, probably so. [Laughs]

Interviewer: [Laughs] So when he had finished up at Grady what were your plans?

Gray: We, our family wanted us to come back to Canton. They did not have an anesthesiologist there. His training had been with the use of an anesthesiologist, so we came to Rome, Georgia, to go into practice. He went into practice by himself. When we came into Rome we were not in debt a penny except for his office equipment. We had survived, we had not borrowed money from the families. They would come down to Atlanta, his family would come down to Atlanta and they would take us to Ship Ahoy. I would have shrimp and I think that is the reason I like shrimp so much now. [Laughs] But that was the only time we would go out to eat is when they would come down and take us out to eat.

Interviewer: What was the name of the restaurant?

Gray: Ship Ahoy<sup>2</sup>-

Interviewer: Ship Ahoy.

Gray: I do not know if it is still there or not.

Interviewer: So going to Rome was just a choice that you made-

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.atlantatimemachine.com/downtown/ship\\_ahoy\\_02.htm](http://www.atlantatimemachine.com/downtown/ship_ahoy_02.htm)

Gray: It was a choice yes.

Interviewer: Ok so it was not because there was an office there that offered him a job.

Gray: No he went into practice by himself, but there was an anesthesiologist that would help him, that would put his patients to sleep. That was the main thing,

Interviewer: And did he do surgery at his office or at a hospital?

Gray: Oh at a hospital. He might have done some in office some minor things, but he did major surgery in the hospital.

Interviewer: And how did he build the practice?

Gray: At that time they did not have any emergency room doctors, they just had nurses. So if someone came in and they needed a doctor you had to go. And he would take calls for some of the doctors that were older that did not want night work. So he built up his practice by himself. Six years before he got a partner. He just made a name for himself.

Interviewer: And did you work at that time after you moved to Rome?

Gray: No I did not work. When we joined First Baptist Church in Rome they were having vacation bible school when we moved there and I took the children there. And then we joined and have been there since then. He was the deacon and a life deacon, and I was a deacon and am a life deacon now. I taught Sunday school and the late children's there for many years. When I was single in Canton during the war I played the piano on Wednesday night for prayer meeting. I am not a very good pianist and I had to select the songs that I could play. And I taught nine-year-old girls during the war at church.

Interviewer: So in Rome, you had Diane in Atlanta-

Gray: I had both boys in Atlanta.

Interviewer: And what are their names?

Gray: Arthur and Phillip.

Interviewer: Ok, so you had three children.

Gray: Three children. Diane was always a little mother to those boys. [Laughter from off screen] I had always wanted a brother I never had a brother so when Arthur was born, I did not believe Richard when he told me that we had a son. At that time you did not believe what you were going to have. So he had to get the thing from the nursery with the name on that and bring it and show it to me. [Laughs]

Interviewer: And you had your children there in that hospital in Rome?

Gray: At Emory-

Interviewer: Oh at Emory?

Gray: Yes I had them all at Emory. The children were two, four, and six years old when we went to Rome.

Interviewer: I am sorry. So you were already in Atlanta, never mind that makes sense. So I want to quickly ask you about your home that you have there in Rome today that you are still in. When did you all build that home?

Gray: When we came to Rome we went into an apartment for about eight months. And then our friends from Emory, the Websters, he was a dentist that had lived in the same apartment in Atlanta. They said that the house next door to us just went on sale. It was five years old. It was built in 53' (1953) I think and said that the couple were getting a divorce. It was five years old and I said you have to be kidding. We had been in school for twelve years we cannot buy a house. But anyway we worked it out. Richard had worked for a doctor in Atlanta that one month after he finished Grady and made a little

money. So that doctor gave him a loan. The person that owned the house gave him a loan, and then we got a loan through an insurance company to buy the house that we are in now in 58' (1958).

Interviewer: Do you remember how much it cost?

Gray: Thirty-five thousand (dollars)

Interviewer: And could you describe the house for us?

Gray: It has three bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, and a den, a playroom. It had a screen in porch, and we turned it into a sunroom, and then we finished up a room upstairs for the playroom that can be another bedroom. So we have two half baths and two whole baths.

Interviewer: And tell me about your family today. You have three children tell me about your grandchildren and your great-grandchildren.

Gray: Ok. Diane is the oldest and she married to a psi farmer. He is the best son in law you would ever have. He can do anything, when I go on furlough I always have a to do list for him. But they were in Africa for twelve years, ten or twelve years. They went to France, and they went to Germany. And they have three children. Jason is a lieutenant colonel now in the army in Awana, Africa. Naomi is married to a lieutenant colonel he is working on his PhD in Pittsburgh now he is in the Army. Catherine is a missionary in Togo, West Africa. And she is married to captain Ellis Isles, and they have been married- they were married in 2006. All three of her children got married within six months of each other I do not know how they did it. And let us see. Arthur is in Macon. He is an anesthesiologist, and his wife is from Macon. And she has three brothers who are doctors and she thought I will never marry a doctor and I will never come back to Macon, but she did it both. She was at Emory when he was there. He went to Emory's undergraduate. And then he has a son in banking in Macon, a son in Dallas, Texas in financing stocks and bonds. And then a daughter in marketing in Macon and then Hamptons kind of in transition right now. And then Phil is a family practice in Calhoun, Georgia. He did his internship residency at Floyd hospital in Rome. We were very surprised that he chose to come to Rome. And he was divorced after several years. He had four children. He married a lady with one child and then they had one child, so they have six children. And Glenn has just finished McAfee seminary in Atlanta. Aaron is a

pastor near Charlotte, North Carolina. Taylor is in Atlanta in business, he is married with a little child. And Rachel finished here at Kennesaw a year ago. She is working at Dalton right now. And Drew went to West Georgia she is working down in that area right now. And Nolan is a junior at Calhoun. He will finish in a year. He wants to be a veterinarian so I do not know how that will work out.

Interviewer: That was impressive. [Laughs] That was very good you have a whole list.

Gray: Well, I have got thirteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren and one more on the way, Naomi is having another baby in April. So, I keep all their names and their birthdays down in a book and I send them a card and a little money, but it is getting expensive. [Laughs]

Interviewer: [Laughs] I was about to say, it's sort of like a community. So, is there something else you would sort of like to add here at the end before we finish up?

Gray: I think I have covered the main things that I wanted to cover.

Interviewer: And well I would ask why do you think that it is important to share this story?

Gray: Well, it is so different from the world today. We did not have television, we did not have computers, iPhones. The children gave me an iPhone for Christmas so that is a challenge now. I do play bridge once a week, it keeps my mind going. So, I have some close friends and even though I live alone I am at church every Wednesday and every Sunday. We have made that- we never have any problem with our children. I always went to church when I was growing up. So, my children have always knew they were going to Sunday school and church even when they were teenagers. That is when lots of people will renege, but no problem there. So, they have all been great. All the grandchildren are great. Nobody has been on drugs or gotten into trouble. And I really feel blessed.

Interviewer: Well, that is wonderful. And I appreciate you sitting down and talking to me today.

Gray: Well, I appreciate sharing the story of Richard and myself. And I hope that it will inspire and bless other people. That they will have their dream. Follow their dream. Work hard. Serve others and keep God in their life.