

Museum of History and Holocaust Education Legacy Series

Joanna Kimling Stubbs interview

Conducted by Adina Langer

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Transcribed by Jiahao Cao

Born in Brooklyn, New York 1927, Eugene Kimling grew up in a German immigrant family. During a family tour to Germany in September 1939, Eugene and his family were trapped by the Nazi regime due to the outbreak of WWII. In the September of 1945, Eugene moved back to New York and regained his U.S citizenship. He and his brother Carl Kimling then enlisted in the U.S Army and served in Asaka, Japan. After discharged from the Army in 1947, Eugene pursued various jobs and finally settled down in Atlanta Georgia.

Full Transcript

Interviewer: My name is Adina Langer, the curator of the Museum of Holocaust and History at Kennesaw State University. Today is Oct 23, 2018. I am here at Sturgis Library with Joanna Kimling Stubbs for a Legacy Series interview, during which we will remember her father Eugene Kimling. Do you agree to this interview?

Stubbs: Yes.

Interviewer: Great. Can you please state your full name?

Stubbs: My name is Joanna Kimling Stubbs.

Interviewer: And can you tell me when and where you were born?

Stubbs: I was born on December 20, 1952 in Torrance California.

Interviewer: Great. So, before we talk about your life and your experience, I would like to go back a little bit further and talk about your father. Can you please state his full name?

Stubbs: Well, his full name is Eugene John Ferdinand Helgen Karl Kimling. And he was born in January 17, 1929.

Interviewer: Where was he born?

Stubbs: He was born in Hanover, Germany. No! That was his mother. Cut that please. He was born in Brooklyn, New York. I am nervous, will you cut it out?

Interviewer: That's ok, well, could you say that again? So, where was your father born?

Stubbs: He was born in Brooklyn, New York.

Interviewer: Did he had any siblings?

Stubbs: Yes, he had one brother Karl Kimling, and he was born in August of 1927, in New York also.

Interviewer: What were their parents' names?

Stubbs: His father's name was Eugene Ferdinand Kimling. And his mother was Karla Müller Kimling.

Interviewer: What were— they would be your grandparents, and do you know what were their lives like before your father was born?

Stubbs: My grandmother, her father had a chimney sweep company in Hanover and she and her family traveled a lot. My grandfather, his father lived in a Southern part of Germany and he came from a farming family. He did not want to be a farmer, so he left that life and wanted to travel. So, he got a job on a ship as a cook. He met my grandma in South America. Well, he was a cook and she was of visiting her brother who lived in South America. So, they met him in Brazil. Un—it's my understanding.

Interviewer: Wow! And how did they come to settle in New York City?

Stubbs: They got married, they lived in Brazil and they both got Malaria. And they actually had a daughter who did not survive. And they decided that they would move to the United States after both getting Malaria. So, they moved to the New York City. They had some family, relatives still lived in the New York City. So, I think they—my grandmother became an American citizen. I believe she, that was in 1929 she became-got naturalized American.

Interviewer: What kind of work did they do in New York?

Stubbs: They had their own, they did a lot of jobs. As far as it was my understanding,

they were entrepreneurs. I think they sold shoes, they had a shoe business. Apparently, they did a lot of different things try to get by. It was kind of hard times.

Interviewer: Yeah, that would have been during the Great Depression.

Stubbs: Yeah, they both worked hard.

Interviewer: And do you know what part of the city did your grandparents lived in?

Stubbs: Well, they lived in, well, according to my dad, they lived in different parts. They moved to different areas. They lived in the New York City, on Coney Island, they lived in Bronx, and Brooklyn. And—so, I do not know why they moved around but they did.

Interviewer: And did that speak German at home?

Stubbs: That is the first language of my father. Yes, they did not speak English and I believe the community they actually ended up settling in earn daddy end little born was a German, I think it was a German Jewish neighborhood. A lot of their friends lived there. You know, that's where everybody speaks German.

Interviewer: And what was your daddy's family's religious identity?

Stubbs: They were Lutheran, they went to German Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. That is what I understand.

Interviewer: Were there other ways they kind of maintaining their German cultural identity?

Stubbs: Well, I—you know, I remember the Christmas trees stories about they had the candles, you know, you didn't put a Christmas tree up till Christmas Eve. So, you will wake up on Christmas morning and have the Christmas tree with the fruit under it. But—the other traditions I know they would, they got upset with my dad and his brothers on Halloween that they did not do that. They thought they were begging. So, they got into trouble when went out. So, all the kids going to houses to getting tricks. They did it too. But then they got trouble with their parents. So, it's about, as far as rest of their traditions, mostly, I just remember daddy telling me about the Christmas trees. That ceremony.

Interviewer: Do you know what was your dad's experience was like in school? Did he had

any challenges with being - having German identity?

Stubbs: He, when he first went to school, he did not speak English. So, you know, people laugh at him when he didn't understand. He was a very intelligent person so that was very frustrating for him. So, he was picked on because he did not speak English. He was German and it wasn't popular thing to be German at that time. [laughs] Yes, he had a hard time. But he always stuck up from himself. He always tells the stories about, I don't know why, it was frustrated, you know, angry little child. But putting pig tails of the girls in front of them. I remember someone flit ink on his shirt and be mean to him. He met outside, punched him out. He was a small kid but he was tough. He learned to be tough, but I think he was angry, too. Some of the teachers too, didn't help either.

Interviewer: They weren't necessarily there to support him. Yeah, so, you mentioned that once the family moved to Coney Island, they were living in a Jewish Community primarily, and being German. Did they have a sense for that started going on in Germany?

Stubbs: I never got that impression. Otherwise my dad didn't understand. You know, why people had a problem with him because as far as he concerned, he was an American. But because his parents were immigrants and they spoke German, umm, you know, he, I don't think he really know, as a child. He never really talked about that, when his grandmother would visit them, she just wanted to learn English. So, my dad tried to help her with her English. But as far as knowing what going on in Germany, I never remember him discussing that. But he must have been aware of it. I don't know.

Interviewer: Yeah, it would be challenging to get lots of information. Do you remember did the family owns a radio? Sometimes those were pretty expensive.

Stubbs: Umm, I have no idea.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Stubbs: He didn't talk about that. I never asked him. If he were here, he can tell you.

Interviewer: Sometimes, you know, it's just never possible to know. Do you have a sense why your father sailed to Germany in 1939?

Stubbs: They—I was told, they went to Germany, they had to go back to Germany

because they owned property, they had apartments that where—according to the German law, if you didn't go back every certain times a year, they would, they can take it from you. So, his grandmother had two apartments buildings, so they went back to Germany on a ship. And the way I understand it, the day they got there, the Americans, there was a war. And so they tried to leave, someone talked to his mother that you need to get your boys and leave. And they were not able to leave because in Germany males were considered German citizens if you had a German dad. Even though they were Americans and showed American passports. But they told his mother that she can go back to the United States because she was a naturalized citizen. Of course, she didn't want to leave her children. So, they were kind of struck there. I think it was just bad luck when they did.

Interviewer: What was life like for your father in Hanover, that's where they were right?

Stubbs: They were in Hanover and there, again, he didn't have fluent German. He understood a lot of German, but he'd been in America, so he practiced, he concentrated on his English. So, he had to basically take German again. But he could understand it well. So there again he was an American and Germans didn't like him. He was an American so I think he was always frustrated with that.

Interviewer: Can you talk about your father's experience with the Deutsche Jungvolk and the Hitler Youth? Did he tell you a little bit about that?

Stubbs: Well, you know, when I was, my dad pretty kept that part of history away from me when I was young. He didn't—what he would say was I went to boarding school, of course when I get in high school and start learning history I realized that you went to the boarding school, you pretty much were part of the Hitler Youth, that's the way it worked. But he never told me until I questioned him about it when I was in high school and he said yeah, that was just a part of school. He did go to private school but they always had that— At the age of 14, I think you have to be a part of the Hitler Youth. I think the boarding school just when he was younger than that. He told me all kinds of stories—they didn't have enough food, the ration, sometimes there was a teacher, he told the story over and over again and I guess it bothered him. One of his teachers had, maybe a headmaster, their son had a birthday the same day as my dad. And this was when he was in boarding school. They would bake a cake and would, you know, just a little celebration for him. Her son got cake my father was never acknowledged. That's the story bothered him so much, she was so mean because he was an American. So, therefore, he didn't like him. He didn't have—he only went home

twice a year. So it was, that was one of the things, again, you know, it was imprinted. And also they would have to go out of the snow and run, you know, in shorts. That was a tough thing they did. But he was, you know, he survived. He felt that kept him from getting sick. [chuckles]

Interviewer: It is interesting. Did the bombings affected the family?

Stubbs: The bombing, well, yeah, they always had air raids. The bombings did. Hamelin, where he was going to school. I know that was bombed and I think that was bombed first, you know, its big fires they started all the fires everywhere. They all left and that's why they went home to Hanover and he was in Hanover because they made everybody leave the school. And then Hanover was massively bombed and his family, who been together just a short period. His mother had passed away. It was his dad and his brother, himself and his grandmother; so their apartment was completely destroyed and they were supposed to meet in a cemetery and daddy wanted to save his canary that he ran back to his apartment, got his canary. My understanding is the canary didn't make it. But they put the canary on his grandmother's grave, just because, you know, he was a sensitive man. And you couldn't see there been so much smoke from all the bombing and fires in the buildings and he couldn't see. So, he went to a first aid station, he crossed the street and another bomb went off, and I think he was pushed against the wall, passed out and the thing he knew he woke up in a first aid place. And he recovered after a couple of days and his father thought he was dead, so his father, I guess, was went back to the apartment that had been bombed. He saw in the upstairs where they were, he saw somebody throwing rocks down out of the window. So, he went up there and it was my dad throwing rocks out of the window. So, they were reunited and everybody was excited. Everybody was alive. His grandmother had go to a— she was homeless she go to a shelter and, so, yeah, they were affected. They lost everything.

Interviewer: Absolutely, before that, in the book, your father mentioned that they were all briefly evacuated with his brother. Did he talk about that? I think it was going on the [indecipherable name] on the Polish border.

Stubbs: You know, you never really talk about that, that adventure that he had. I know it's in the book. Unfortunately, I can't recall it.

Interviewer: That's ok, you know, he spent, he was in boarding school. He was all over the place.

Stubbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: He also talked about that your grandmother, his father, was drafted to the Germany Army, sent to the Russian front. He couldn't stay because of a WWI wound. Did he talk about what happened to his father after that?

Stubbs: Yes. After, yeah, he was in WWI and he had the wound and I guess it reopened sent to the front. They sent people to the front when you didn't want to be a German soldier. Ok, oh fine, go up there and get a shot and we don't care. So, that was, I think he got TB after that, so they couldn't have that as a soldier, so he went back to the city and he got a job. He was in charge of a soup kitchens.

Interviewer: So, in that job where he worked for the Government who did he report to?

Stubbs: You know, I don't know, but it had to be a German government. I just, yeah, that's all I know.

Interviewer: Yeah, working for the government, at least, does that give him some temporarily special privileges?

Stubbs: He did get—that's when they had penthouse apartment. That was the one that was actually bombed right after they all gone to—they had been together and there's no room. So that was when he and his brother, that was first time they been living together. He didn't really know his father. My dad didn't really know his father very well because they were always working and there wasn't enough room. Umm, to stay together in Germany. But that only lasted, I think, he said about 4 months and they were bombed. Umm, he did, looks like he gonna have a nice place. It didn't work out.

Interviewer: So, where did your father go next?

Stubbs: Umm, he, you know, honestly, I can't remember. He went to another boarding school and I don't remember which one was.

Interviewer: That's fine. Did he talk at all about what he was learning? His education was like?

Stubbs: Well, umm, he did go to the—he got in the school that his grandfather went to. So, he was able to get into the school that his grandfather was. He learned several languages. He did that. As far as I know, just mostly academic. You

know, the—he never really talked about the training that they had to do. They had to learn shoot rifles and stuff. They had to learn— they were trying to turn them into soldiers, but he did get a good education. My dad, he knew Latin, he knew a couple languages. He never really talked about the curriculum. He was on the path to be more of an engineer. They kind of take you to an academic school or you went to a trade school, in Germany. And he was on the path to be more of an engineer. They knew he had that talent.

Interviewer: Did he do any kind of engineering projects?

Stubbs: I know what you—[laughs] Yes, he was always building things to explode and there's a story in there I know they use some film. Somebody's father sent them a movie and the film was damaged. So, they use that to ignite, make some kind of explosive can that went off the street and set off air raids. Of course, he said he never got caught. And they did they built gliders, smoke bombs and flew around. Yeah, they did all kind of explosive. So, yeah. He did. [chuckles]

Interviewer: So, in December 1944, your father wrote that he was sent to the military training camp. Did he mentioned something about being asked to join the SS? What did he do when that happened?

Stubbs: He was the only teenager student that said no. "I refuse to do that." So they he was punished. He was treated poorly. He got his rations taken cut down, given more hard labors to do. He wouldn't do to. He just refused. Then I think just shortly after, wasn't it, that the war ended?

Interviewer: Yeah, so, what he do when the war ended?

Stubbs: So, when the war ended, when they were told they didn't know the war ended. They were assumed they would just see the troops dropping, the German troops dropping their weapons and leaving. And his boarding school headmaster told everybody to go home, just go home. And he went, I can't remember exactly how he did it, but he helped the British and Americans. He was an interpreter. He did— he let them know he was an American and used his skills - British did a lot. And he would go to different places with officers, went to different homes, and interpret for them. He would also point out some of the Germans, I guess they was just trying to blend in the military. He pointed them out to the British and Americans. So, he had a real job.

Interviewer: Yeah, it's an important job. Did he tell you any stories what was like work for

Americans? He played this role.

Stubbs: He did. He would go into people's houses and Americans officers would tell him to tell some, you know, to tell some German—to get the stuff out and my father would interpret like, you know, they would kindly ask to leave your possessions and please leave the premises, but that's not what they said. They'd cuss and say all kinds of derogatory things and daddy would always be polite and interpret it in a nice way. They criticized the food or something and daddy would say “no”, “this is a wonderful meal”. So, he did try to be diplomatic. I mean he was kind of torn. I mean he's German and he is American. So, he did a great job. They wanted to let him go back to the United States, but the Americans did; and the British did too. They wanted to take him. He was still a kid, you had to remember, he wasn't that old. I believe he was like 15 when he was doing that. They wanted him to go to their countries with them. But he wouldn't leave their grandmother. So, he stayed.

Interviewer: How did your Uncle Carl's experience of the end of war different from that of your father?

Stubbs: Umm, Carl was in a POW camp. He was actually sent to the German front to fight also. Because he was a year and half older than my dad. They sent him and he was in a POW camp. I remember they were trying to find Carl and walking on the streets and looking in the camps and buses. And there is a story where he, Carl, I believe on a truck and my daddy pointed him out and now they got back together. A truck with POWs on it.

Interviewer: So, how and when did your uncle and your father decided to return to the United States?

Stubbs: I can't remember the year. It was after the war and they were. They decided, of course, once they got back together. I don't remember the year. But, umm, to go back to the United States, they had their passports and renewed. And they got on a ship, and I think they were classified as displaced peoples or something with everyone else that was coming to the United States from Germany. That's how they got back to the U.S. with the intention of going back to see their grandmother, once they were in the U.S, they would join the military and go see their grandmother.

Interviewer: So, they joined the U.S Military and were hoping to go back to Germany. That's what they were hoping to do?

Stubbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: So they did join the military. Did your dad talk at all about what his training was like? What it was like to be in the U.S military?

Stubbs: Honestly, he didn't have a lot respect of the people training him because they were just jerks. I mean, they would do things, you know, kick him from back, laugh. Daddy was a smart person, he felt like they were, you know, disrespectful. So, some of the officers' training, I say officers because I don't know if they were sergeants. They were training him weren't—they didn't deserve his respect. He did not, he didn't have good experience. One of the reasons he decided not to stay in the military.

Interviewer: Where did he ended up being stationed?

Stubbs: He, umm, so when they joined, he and his brother were kept together. Now was good, they had fun together. But they were told they were send them to Germany. They wanted them to join so they could them as interpreters for Americans in Germany. That was their plan. They ended up being sent out to Japan. And, so they were like, what? That was the other reason he was like, "They don't know what they were doing. I don't know why they do this." So, he ended up in Japan and decided— then they got, umm, he had to drive a truck. He did know how to drive a truck, you know, he had experiences. He tell stories about trying to drive a truck. They were listed as deserters because they never showed up for going to Germany, they thought they were deserters. They realized then, they were sent to Japan. I don't know how that would work honestly. But—.

Interviewer: I mean, it reminds me of what you read in Catch 22. The situations that the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing.

Stubbs: How can you know, not know these two people whom you just sent to drive a truck? Yeah, daddy told stories about learning to drive a truck with guys in it. And put the breaks on because every a few seconds thrown them to the back of the truck. He did know how to drive and they would ride with him. So only, I think he was 17. He was still a kid.

Interviewer: So, in his book, your father talked about purchasing the care packages to send back to Germany. Did he tell you any stories about that?

Stubbs: Mostly I remember was coffee. They didn't have any coffee. Grandma didn't. She was living in a, you know, a kind of a warehouse. So he would send care packages with coffee in it and canned goods so they would have some food. He felt really bad because he won't be able to take care of his grandmother. You know, that wasn't his intention not to go to Japan, but to go to Germany.

Interviewer: I guess aside from the lack of coffee, there's a sense that she could trade with the coffee.

Stubbs: I do know. I don't know my grandmother did trade the coffee. I do know that, umm, from other stories I've heard, that yes, you would trade for different things. The Americans, especially Americans soldiers I know, their wives would go trade like coffee for a copper pot, cookware, things like that. Give the coffee to the Germans.

Interviewer: When he still working for the Americans in Germany, had he experience that black market at all?

Stubbs: Umm, he did and he made some money himself that way. He was always—But honestly, I had to look in the book, I can't really remember.

Interviewer: That's fine. Umm, so after getting out of the Army, how did your father to make the decision to attend the Northrop Aeronautical Institute in California?

Stubbs: Well, they had the G.I Bill, so he had the opportunity. He wanted to go to the engineering school and there was a school in New York where he was living and there was Northrop and they were working on some kind of airplane that he was was fascinated with that. So that way why he made the decision to go to California, go to Northrop, to be an engineer.

Interviewer: Did he had any trouble with the G.I Bill because he had been at Germany?

Stubbs: He did. He wanted the G.I. Bill and they said, "You don't have any record, how can you go to college? You don't even have a record of high school." So, he didn't but he was very well educated in Germany. So, he took the test, the high school diploma test. He passed it—he had to take it—they made him to take it three different times. Some of them just didn't believe him that he knew everything so they finally give him his credentials so that he could go the college.

Interviewer: So, what was his engineering education like in California?

Stubbs: He—I know he lived in an apartment or a dorm with a couple of his roommates. Actually, one was a prisoner of war and the other a WWII veteran. So, they spoke German, some German. He felt like—they connected. He worked in in a cafeteria for a while, he would iron clothes—he did different tasks to make money to eat on.

Interviewer: Once he completed his education, what kind of job was he able to get?

Stubbs: He was an Aeronautical engineer and I think he started out in a mechanics division and proved himself and was promoted to, umm, more of design. He did a lot of the proofing of the aircraft parts, the engineered part. He would proof them to make sure that there would be no errors.

Interviewer: Umm, so what he liked best about working in the airplane industry? Did he ever tell what excited him about being an engineer?

Stubbs: He wanted to fly. Always, always wanted to fly. He did get his pilot license and he did buy, he and a friend, bought an airplane. That is what he really wanted about it. I think the whole thing with aeronautical engineering was just he wanted. He liked flying. So, they bought a plane, fixed it up and I don't think it worked very well ended up. They ended up selling it. They didn't get many money for it. That's the story I remember. But he just really like planes, he really. His whole life—that's the kind of engineering but he also worked on engines. You know, cars, basically like cars and planes.

Interviewer: So, can you tell me your mother's name?

Stubbs: My mother's name is Louise Nelline Raba [spelling unclear] Kimling.

Interviewer: And how did she and your father met each other?

Stubbs: She was born in Bakersfield, California and they moved to Los Angeles, they lived in Inglewood and both worked for the Northrop. She was a secretary after she went to high school. She lived in Inglewood. Actually, they met through a friend—My mother worked for Northrop. My mother worked with her sister. One of her sisters worked in Northrop. And my dad's friend, he worked there and introduced my father to my mother. And then they started dating.

Interviewer: So what they tell you about their early years together?

Stubbs: They, well, they didn't have very much money. I know that. And they rented, you know, a house. And then they were able to buy a house in Torrance and that's where I was born. They didn't have much money.

Interviewer: Umm, what could they do for fun on a very low budget?

Stubbs: They, as far as—what I remember, they would take their car, their motorcycle, daddy had a motorcycle. They would go out and camp. They go to all the forests around California, they go to the beach, just regular stuff like that.

Interviewer: So, you have siblings right? What were your sibling's names?

Stubbs: I have a brother Joe, and a younger brother who passed away, Robin. He is five years younger than me. My brother is two years, Joe is two years older than me and still alive. But Robin passed away about twelve years ago.

Interviewer: So, what are some of your earliest memories of your family?

Stubbs: Ok. My earliest memory, we had, was just my dad building a wall in the back of our house and I know he would go buy, I heard the story—I didn't know he was buying a brick at the time because that's all he could afford. But he was, I remember, we had a big white dog. I remember riding on his motorcycle. I remember the stories of how all other people in the cars just give my parents, you know, not approving looks because they had two children and my mom on a Harley with my dad driving down the road. So, mostly just it was a small house and we had a white dog and a little fence, we go to the beach.

Interviewer: Is your mother staying home with you?

Stubbs: My mother did. My mother did not work.

Interviewer: So, you father hold a number of different jobs and some of them were engineering. He was in long-distance freight at one point and then the film industries. How did these frequent changes of jobs affect you and your family?

Stubbs: You had to go with the flow. Just had to. Daddy, if they were not paying him enough, when he was an engineer, and there was an opportunity for another

engineering position, we moved. We must moved around, you know we moved around in California, alot. Gosh! I figured out that I moved to probably 8 different schools. We moved about 8 times when I was growing up. I didn't, it was ok but I think it would be nicer to just staying on place. We stayed in California until I was 13, and then daddy got a job opportunity with Lockheed in Georgia. Here in Marietta. So, he moved and we followed him. And that didn't last, that was like a year, and that was a cultural shock for me. Umm, at the time. Then we moved to Buffalo, another change, another job opportunity. Cause Lockheed—what happened was when they finished projects, daddy decided— he was a contract engineer. So when they finished a project, the project would be over, and he would move on. He loved it. Daddy didn't, it didn't bother him at all to move. I think it bothered my mother but she would, you know, she was a trooper as were we. Buffalo was great except it was freezing cold. I thought daddy took us wherever he move. We were always tourists. And so we went to Canada, we went to ski and different parts of the North. And we saw different countries. We lived in Utah for a while. I remember that. And that was when I went to kindergarten, first grade in Utah. That's where I first got skis. Daddy put skis on us but then I guess almost two years in Buffalo. He had an opportunity to stay there and I remember we drove around looking for subdivisions. It was just like, well, it is a nice house because we were just renting and we all looked at each other. It's cold there and we can't stay there. [laughs] So we went back. Daddy got a job at Lockheed again. So, he moved back to Georgia, in Marietta again. They pretty much fell in love with that. The reasons for those jobs is because his—when his engineering job, when Lockheed started laying everybody off, which they did, and I think it was 1968. They started doing that or in 1969. He didn't want to leave. My mother had a job with Eastern Airlines and they liked Georgia. She didn't want to move my little brother Robin, like we had been moving all over the places, she wanted him to stay here. So, daddy was trying to make money and he thought. So, my uncle, he's also an engineer, he also got laid off. So, he decided that they would went on the truck things. You will buy a truck and then you haul stuff across the country. And they did that. I could see they look fantastic when they came back. They were in such good shape physically from moving everything. They said you couldn't make money. It wasn't their things. So, it didn't last. They did that. Then daddy got into the film industry, he absolutely loved. It was film distribution and they would take films—like he worked for Earl Owensby— from film companies and get different contract with different theaters around the country. And then, daddy would be responsible for getting the films to them and getting the money. So he did that, Daddy loved that business. He loved traveling, he loved meeting people, he just loved the industry. So, he did it for a while. Actually, Lockheed started

hiring again. So he went back to engineering. So they managed to stay here in Georgia for, Oh Gosh, I don't know, for 50 years almost?

Interviewer: It is amazing after all that moving around. So, what was your relationship like with your daddy?

Stubbs: Well, it was very—Daddy was always busy. He was always working. I guess he was a working type of personality. Umm, so he was a great daddy. But we didn't play sports. We didn't do that. Daddy was with an engineer type of personality. A lot of times those people were focused on what their job is. I say that, I don't really know. Few people I know their dads are like that. So he would tell the stories I told you. We got a boat. We got a place on Lake Lanier. We did stuff like that. We went skiing—he was great. My dad was so sweet and kind. He was—when I hear the stories about what a scrapper he was in New York, I just can't imagine him being that way, but he was. But he learned from his experiences and basically, he was a very compassionate kind of person.

Interviewer: So, did you graduate high school in Georgia?

Stubbs: Yes, I did. Wheeler, Marietta.

Interviewer: And as an adult did you lived in anywhere other than Georgia?

Stubbs: As an adult—Oh, yes, because of my experiences, and living in the many places I had, I was very open to moving. And I married my husband, Joe Stubbs, he's from— his dad was an Army Lieutenant colonel. So, he traveled all-over and lived all-over. So, both of us were used to moving. So, he moved to Athens, to UGA, and he couldn't get a job after graduated because of a kind of recession. So, he decided to go to a graduate school. So—we—well, when he graduated with his Bachelors, we just took a van for six weeks to travel around the country. And then he got to a graduate school in Virginia Tech, so we lived in Blacksburg, Virginia for four years. Then he got a job in Tennessee, Knoxville. We lived there for a couple of years, then he moved back to Georgia, in here, Marietta. And then we moved to Florida, and we lived in Florida for 8 years. And we decided to moved back to this area because of our parents are both getting elderly and Joe is a builder and he would build subdivisions and homes. So, he was an entrepreneur. So, he could have a business. So, we moved back here. So yes, I've lived in several places. Some people couldn't do that I know, like my sister in law. But you know, if you used to that, I guess it makes easier to move around like that. That's the only thing I can think of.

Interviewer: So were your children born in Georgia or in other places?

Stubbs: No, my oldest Brian was born in Virginia and Carolyn was born in Tennessee, and Daniel, the youngest, he was born actually in Kennestone, here in Marietta. I didn't want to move my children around like I did. I wanted them to grow up in one place—it worked out—it was an opportunity for Florida, so we there and then back.

Interviewer: So, what was your father's relationship like with your children, with his grandchildren?

Stubbs: Daddy was—umm—he lectured a lot, nice lectures. You need to get an education, always education. Ok, So his relationship—So he was very loving and he liked to play games with you. He'd like to take you to skiing on his boat—and tell stories. But he would always turned in, and his brother, his uncle Carl was the same way. Always tell you how important it is to get an education. And you get the education, you get a Bachelors and he says what about a Master? And you get the Masters and he says what about Phd? It's like—. [laughs] It looks like daddy was always doing that. He said because he had no guidance, he had no guidance. He and his brother were on their own. So, I think, they felt that the best thing they can do for the grandchildren was to give them advice. So daddy gave lots of advice. It's good advice.

Interviewer: So how did life change for him as he got older? He writes about this a little bit in the book as not being as favorite time in his life.

Stubbs: Well, you mean with his heart? Health? He did had a triple bypass surgery when he was 46 years old. He was very young and they were just doing that at Emory. I lived in Virginia and flew down. He was able to work—daddy—nothing can keep him down. You know, he'd leave the hospital early and he kept working. He always wanted to work. What happened was he got sick and he actually had angina and had another bypass operation. But that's what held him back with engineering. What was doing was inspecting the planes, you have to walk great distances to the planes and you have to climb ladders to get inside and he had angina and so it got to the point—I mean he was 65. His doctor said—I think or 70, I think daddy worked early. And his doctor said, "You gonna kill yourself or you gonna have to stop." So he didn't like having to stop working but he did. It was hard for him to not be able to do what he wanted to do. That was the very active people who had to stay busy all the time. So, yeah, it was tough for him. And then my brother passed away. And then my mom. It was kind of, pretty

much, he was very lonely at that point.

Interviewer: Well, so reflecting on—when did he pass away? It was very recent right?

Stubbs: Yes, he passed away on May 6, of this year, 2018.

Interviewer: So, reflecting on his long life and experiences, how do you think his experience of World War II affected his life?

Stubbs: I think that daddy, he had a great appreciation for life and individuals and their ability to choose who they were and what they wanted. His things were about live and let live. He really, I think, he had more compassion. I think seeing a lot of sufferings, you know, and then he had an appreciation for life. That I think a lot of people take advantage of.

Interviewer: He had so many identities, he was American and German, a veteran and engineer and an entrepreneur. Did he find categories useful or straining?

Stubbs: Categories probably can—No probably useful. Daddy was able to take anything that he learned and to make it to his advantage. And he would do the same with resume. I mean he would take a resume and incorporate something he had done that wasn't even related to it and make it work. He was, he was special.

Interviewer: So, what lessons do you think your father wanted to impart to the students of history?

Stubbs: War is bad. You know, it is just for any war, for any purpose is bad. Just—People should just love each other live or let live. He had many different friends, all different—he liked people, just liked people. But he was also a very conservative person, you know, but that's probably a generational thing.

Interviewer: It's interesting. How did those things interact for him?

Stubbs: Umm, I don't know, you know, he could argue his point. I'm not, I'm the kind of person who doesn't really like confrontation. Daddy pretty much he didn't really anybody, he wouldn't let anyone run over him. Confrontation, he just soon get along with people and be very diplomatic. He loved arguing, he could argue his point and argue his point. You are not gonna change his ideas about anything. He was pretty much conservative. I could see he is a rule follower. I say he's a rule follower but he is also a rebel too. So I don't know. [laughs]

Interviewer: People are individuals. It's really hard to—so, is—If you could evaluate it, what do you think the most important thing that student could learn from studying your father's life?

Stubbs: The most important thing, I think, survival. I think survival. Basically, you can be independent and you need to have a—daddy said once - He told me that if you don't let your kids to fail, if you don't let them to learn, the people gonna say ugly things, they would not be strong as adults and they will have problems. They have to learn to, you have to accept that things in life aren't always perfect. And you have to accept that if people say things to you, he had a really thicker skin. He had a real thick skin. I think he would say don't let things bother you, move on with your life, just let it go. That's what he would tell them.

Interviewer: So, is there anything that I haven't asked yet and you would like to talk about?

Stubbs: You know, the only thing I can think of is he and his brother. I didn't know my uncle Carl very well except the stories my dad told me. I mean, I would see him once or twice a year, but he lived in New York and we lived in California and Georgia. But they were very, very close. That family to daddy was the most important thing. No matter what they do they are your family and you love them. They were very close because they had to be, because they went through life, they always supported each other. Daddy would do that. He would say that might be a lesson too:. Don't turn your back, turn your back to your families.

Interviewer: And you mentioned to me earlier that you did go back to Germany right?

Stubbs: Yes, he had been back several times but I went back with him about, I guess its been about 4 years ago. And because his grandmother, she built apartment houses, and daddy couldn't part with them. He couldn't sell them. His brother wanted him to sell them. They are in Germany and they don't do us any good because you're not going to go and live in Germany. But he had a connection because his grandmother. She was the only one he talked a lot about, not his mother and father. They worked and he was in boarding school and camps. Daddy didn't have much of a family life like that we think of as family life. So, she had these apartments and he couldn't let go of them. So, he turned me to go. So, I went with them. And daddy couldn't part with them. We looked the apartments, you could see the church, the wood, sung in the choir, and the road. It was pretty, it was nice. He wanted to show them to me because his grandmother said that you have to always keep these because you always have a place to go. Because Hanover was bombed, they had no home and she always

hated that. That they had no home. So she built the apartments for her boys even though they were in America and they won't come back to Germany. So, we looked the apartment and I met everybody. I met the bankers, the management company of the apartment. And daddy's like, "oh, she's gonna take over this." I'm like, "I don't speak German and I don't think this gonna to work." So I told— so we visited Germany, we visited relatives. They were lovely and we came back to the United States. I told daddy you have to sell these. So, he finally agreed, and it took me three years after that talking to him, to convince him it was ok to sell a German apartments. So maybe it had some effects on him, growing up has a place to call home. You know, that was very important to him.

Interviewer: Has the German heritage played a role in your identity at all?

Stubbs: Yeah—I think so. Just learning everything from him, I'm very proud of my German heritage. Strong people.

Interviewer: Thank you, thank you so much for sharing you and your family's stories with me and with the Legacy Series. I appreciate it.

Stubbs: Thank you. I appreciate you interviewing me.