

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Adine Ray

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Ray, Adine, 1908-2008
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Adine Ray,
Dates:	June 12, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:23:41).
Abstract:	Junior high school teacher Adine Ray (1908 - 2008) taught for twenty-five years in the Chicago Public Schools. Ray then lived and traveled in Europe with her husband before returning to the United States to do volunteer work in Washington D.C. Ray was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 12, 2003, in Silver Spring, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_129
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Retired teacher Adine Ray devoted herself to raising her family and serving her community. Ray was born on July 4, 1908, in Chicago, Illinois, to Alma, a homemaker, and Andrew, a Pullman porter. Ray spent most of her life in Chicago.

After graduating from high school, Ray attended the University of Chicago until the Great Depression interrupted her studies. She later returned and received her B.S. degree in education in 1935. Soon after, she set out to teach in the Chicago Public Schools. For twenty-five years, Ray taught math, English and social studies to seventh-graders. Her husband, Colonel Marcus H. Ray, was one of the few African American military officers at the time. When he was sent to Germany, Ray and their two children accompanied him.

Upon returning to Chicago, Ray resumed her teaching career. Once her children were grown, she retired and moved to Lausanne, Switzerland, with her husband and lived there seven years, traveling throughout Europe. Ray and her husband moved to the Washington D.C. area in 1976 after the birth of their twin grandsons. They are Ray's only grandchildren. Though retired, Ray worked as a volunteer teacher in local schools. She and her husband had been married fifty-four years at the time of his death.

Ray continued her civic activities well into her nineties, working for a cancer fund in Chicago, and volunteering with the Red Cross. She belonged to several literary clubs and enjoyed going to the symphony and the theater. On January 20, 2008, Ray welcomed her first great-grandson, Taj Samuel Alva Usher, into the world. Ray passed away on February 7, 2008 at the age of ninety nine.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Adine Ray was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 12, 2003, in Silver Spring, Maryland, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Junior high school teacher Adine Ray (1908 - 2008) taught for twenty-five years in the Chicago Public Schools. Ray then lived and traveled in Europe with her husband before returning to the United States to do volunteer work in Washington D.C.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Ray, Adine, 1908-2008

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Ray, Adine, 1908-2008--Interviews

Junior high school teachers--Interviews

Community activists--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Junior High School Teacher

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Adine Ray, June 12, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Adine Ray, Section A2003_129_001_001, TRT: 0:29:41 ?

Adine Victoria DeLuc Ray was born on July 4, 1908 to Alma Toups DeLuc and Andrew Charles DeLuc. Her father was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1873. He was partially of Native American descent and a relative of his was reportedly the first non-white student to attend Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. His mother worked as a seamstress for the French Opera, which inspired his appreciation for classical music, and he worked on the railroad.

Alma DeLuc was born on a farm in St. Charles, Louisiana in 1879. Her father was a Frenchman who caught tuberculosis and pneumonia during a flood and died. While both of Ray's parents knew each other in Louisiana, they married around 1901 after separately moving to Chicago, Illinois. Ray remembers her childhood on the South Side of Chicago, including music lessons, Sunday school, and tree climbing. She also remembers playing in the garden with her older brother during the Chicago race riot of 1919.

Junior high school teachers--Interviews

Community activists--Interviews

Video Oral History Interview with Adine Ray, Section A2003_129_001_002, TRT: 0:29:41 ?

Adine Ray grew up on 65th Street near Langley Avenue in Chicago, Illinois in a lower middle class neighborhood that was predominantly Irish and German. She remembers the horse drawn vehicles and the neighborhood businesses, including a German bakery and a hardware store, that were later closed when larger companies like A&P and Hardware City opened stores the neighborhood. After World War I, the African American population in Ray's neighborhood grew, and she remembers the tensions between African Americans and the Irish population during the Chicago Race Riot of 1919. After her brother had an operation at St. Bernard's Hospital, he was attacked in Washington Park by a group of Irish children. Ray attended McCosh Elementary School until 1921 and Englewood High School until 1923. From there she transferred to Hyde Park High School, where she enjoyed theater, English, and Spanish.

Video Oral History Interview with Adine Ray, Section A2003_129_001_003, TRT: 0:29:05 ?

Adine Ray graduated from Hyde Park High School in Chicago, Illinois in 1925 and enrolled at the Chicago Normal School, where she received her associates degree in teaching in 1927. She then enrolled at the University of Chicago, where she continued to study education and where she received her degree in 1936. Her family attended a Congregationalist Church which hosted speakers and elocutionists like Roscoe Conkling Simmons. In 1930, Ray was hired as a teacher at Stephen A. Douglas School under principle Maudelle Bousfield, the first black principal of a Chicago Public School. In 1934, she married Marcus Ray, who fought with the U.S. Army in an artillery battalion during World War II and achieved the rank of Colonel. During the war, Ray raised her children Adine and Marcus, Jr., and she returned to teach at Gillespie Elementary School after her children were grown.

Video Oral History Interview with Adine Ray, Section A2003_129_001_004, TRT: 0:30:09 ?

Adine Ray raised her children Adine and Marcus, Jr. without a TV and was part of a Chicago mother's club while her husband Marcus Ray fought in World War II. She remembers premonitions she had about Pearl Harbor and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. After the war, her husband worked at the Pentagon in the War Department and Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio as a Military Plans and Training Officer before retiring. Adine Ray retired from teaching in 1966, and moved with her husband to Lausanne, Switzerland in 1967, where they lived until 1974 and did not meet the racism they had faced in the U.S. They returned to the U.S. to be closer to their grandchildren, living first in Framingham, Massachusetts and moving to Silver Springs, Maryland in 1976. She shares her hopes and concerns for the African American community to maintain civility and to not be adversely affected by the media. Ray also reflects on her legacy and some of her volunteer commitments in the Washington, D.C. area.

Video Oral History Interview with Adine Ray, Section A2003_129_001_005, TRT: 0:25:05 ?

Adine Ray describes her book club and reflects upon her health and longevity. She also shares her advice for younger generations and how she would like to be remembered. Ray ends the interview by narrating her photographs.