



# Then & Now

Vol. 6

A monthly update for Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors and friends

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Dear Board Members and Friends of FBHS,

As I have indicated in the last few months the Florida Baptist Historical Society has been blessed to receive the Marian Peeler Gray Cowherd and Rufus Franklin Gray papers. In this month of Foreign Mission emphasis I want to share some of the Rufus Gray materials and then later in the spring we will view some of the Marian Gray materials.

Rufus Gray (1915-1942) was born in Titusville, Florida in 1915. His family later moved to Ft. Pearce and Rufus was baptized February 3, 1925 at FBC Ft. Pearce. Rufus felt the call to foreign mission service and graduated from Furman University and Southern Seminary (1940). On May 10, 1939, Rufus married Marian Peeler of Matthews, South Carolina. The Grays left for mission service in China in 1940 and went later to Baguio, Philippines in 1941 for language study. On December 29, 1941, Rufus, Marian and their son Billy (born September 8, 1941) were imprisoned by the Japanese in Baguio. Rufus was killed by the Japanese on January 25, 1942 and Marian and Billy remained imprisoned until freed by American soldiers in 1945.

There were 88 SBC Foreign Mission Board missionaries caught in Japanese controlled areas in WWII. Rufus Gray is the only one who was killed. The others were able to make their way home but only after arduous circumstances.

In this season of International Mission's emphasis may we pause and thank God for those foreign missionaries who have served faithfully through the ages. We should count it a privilege to be involved in the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions and our on going Cooperative Program work.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

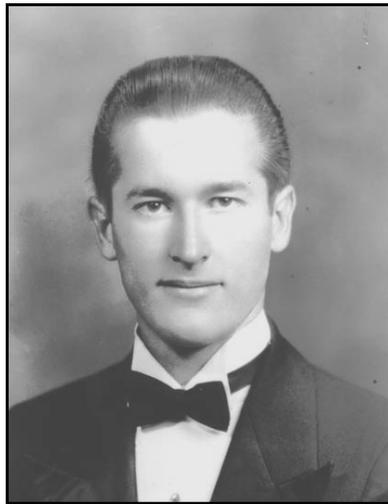
Jerry M. Windsor  
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Matthew 6:33



Rufus attended Furman on a tennis scholarship.



Rufus Gray and Marian Peeler married May, 10, 1939. Dr. W. O. Carver performed their marriage ceremony and they lived with Mrs. A. T. Robertson.



Rufus in about 1938



Rufus and Marian in 1941. Rufus is wearing a Chinese robe and Marian is dressed in a Japanese robe. Dr. Bill Gray donated the silk Chinese robe worn by Rufus to the Florida Baptist Historical Society.



The last known picture of Rufus Gray in January, 1941.