

looking girl. When she went home the first thing she had to tell was that Nathan was at school today and "I would give a dollar if I were as nice looking as he is." While I always think of Alice Smith as nice looking, my opinion of my looks harmonize with my wife's statement, "If Grandfather Gray looked like a picture of him that was in the old house but unfortunately burned, he must have been a very homely man," and the older I get the more I look like the picture of him. (Note: He looked more like the Havens and his mother.)

Abram and Court had each finished their education at Woodstock Baptist College. Court finished for a public school teacher at Brantford Collegiate Institute. Abram preferred a business course and finished at Brantford Business College. While in Brantford Abram was impressed with the importance of the Agricultural Implement business. A. Harris, Son & Co. having the largest factory and most successful manufacturers of best machines, he arranged to take their agency at Leamington and managed it so successfully that Alanson Harris came to our home at Eden and offered Abram a general agency after only one year's experience as a local agent.

Court, after a short term at St. Thomas Model, taught one year at Tyrconnell and was given very high recommendations but came home to join father in lumbering. A very well equipped mill was built on the Houghton side of the Townline. A Post Office and general store were opened and, after a year, I left school to manage the store. When this business was sold, I took a short course at Woodstock College then known as Canadian Literary Institute. I came home to the farm and on the 4th of April, 1888, married Nancy Rebecca Howey, youngest daughter of Martin Howey. At that time father bought the general store at Eden and along with Charlie Johnson, who had two years previously married Nellie, managed the store for some years. Selling out the store, Abram and I secured the Tillsonburg agency for A. Harris, Son & Co. agricultural Implements.

A well remembered incident took place when a good farmer came to town to buy a disc, harrow and a corn scuffler. Coming to me first I quoted the regular list price. Having the cash, Mr. Hatch wanted to buy at the lowest price so went to the Massey agency. Mr. Cook cut the price \$1.00. Mr. Hatch continued back and forth until Cook had offered at cost to the agent. Abram had purchased some corn scufflers at Kalamazoo, Mich., at a lower price even after we paid the duty, so I was in a position to bid a dollar less than Cook and still make \$1.50.

Another incident arose over the sale to Andrew Scott of a binder and the Massey agent persuaded him that he had made a mistake. Scott came to me with the complaint the binder would not tie and asked me to take it back and he would buy a Massey. After closing time I drove to Scott's and found someone had placed one kernel of wheat under the twine tension which prevented the tightening; the twine being loose went over the knotter instead of in it. On removing the wheat, we found the machine worked perfectly. Before another season the Massey Harris amalgamation took place. All features of the

MR. AND MRS. NATHAN GRAY
GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Signing Golden Anniversary card for Kitty and Nathan Gray were: Apr. 4, 1888
- Apr. 4, 1938.

Courtland F. Gray	Ted Gray	Minnie C. Gray
Ruth D. Gray	Pearl Gray Morris	Constance V. Gray
Elizabeth J. Gray	John Morris	Hope Gray
Ruth M. Gray	William Morris	Kellie Gray Kirtland
Hinnifred H. Gray	Paul Morris	Abram Gray
Marion Gray	Ever Gray	Rose Grace Wilson
Helen E. Gray	Donald F. Gray	Grace Gray Wilson
		Alex Wilson

Twenty others in photo not listed on card.

At reunion of the Grays at the home of Nathan Gray in Lyfomer Thanksgiving Day, 1951 were: also at the reunion, the year following

Nathan H. Gray	Joan Gray	John F. G. Morris Jr.	Bill Kirtland
Barbara H. Gray	Ruth Marion Gray	Paul H. Morris	Kellie Gray Kirtland
Donald F. Gray	Elizabeth Jean Gray	Eric Moore	Hugh Anderson
Margaret B. Gray	Marian Buckner	Hope Moore	Gladys Anderson
Ann M. Gray	Dawna Ruth Buckner	Douglas Moore	Ruth Gray
Hinnifred Gray	Paul Buckner	Chester Plank.	Stanley Schetz
Grace A. Wilson	Helen E. Walterhouse	Bill Morris.	Connie Morgan
Ruth D. Gray	Joan Walterhouse		Peter Morgan
John F. G. Morris Sr.	Glean Walterhouse		Jan Dwight Gray
Pearl Gray Morris	Earl Buckner		Veri Gray

Harris binder were used in the new binder except the twine box and the reel and the second year agents requested Brantford made machines demonstrating beyond a doubt the superiority of A.Harris, Son & Co. machinery. Harrises were Baptist in religion and Liberal in politics. Masseys were Methodist in religion and Tory in politics.

After some years on the farm I secured a position which took us to Belleville where we remained four years. I had four winter months in the office and eight months on the road covering large portion of Ontario, the Ottawa valley, and the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Later I moved to Ottawa for four years representing Western Wooden Ware selling brushes, brooms, baskets, etc. Here I became a deacon in McPhail Memorial Baptist Church and made many warm friends. At the urge of my father, we returned to Eden and to the farm. After some years on the Grandma Havens farm, I bought the Lamond farm joining our old home farm and a little later bought Gray Croft where I was born, thus giving me 300 acres, a larger farm than any of the Grays had owned.

When the first World War broke out, having some timber, I bought a sawmill and began sawing lumber for war work. Eventually I added planing mill machinery and after the war was over manufactured some lines for the T. Eaton Co. and shipped sash and doors as far as Chatham. Getting in with a St. Thomas builder, I built up a nice trade in house trim, sash and doors in that city. Having purchased a number of cheap sand farms for the timber where it had been manufactured, I had these farms left on my hands with no immediate demand for them.

Soon tobacco growing became quite common in the neighbourhood and I equipped one farm in 1929 and two more in 1930 but sold the three crops at an all time low which nearly forced me into bankruptcy. However, this year was one of the best I had ever had in the lumbering business. It being an election year most of the harbours along the north shore of Lake Erie were repaired, and I got the contracts to supply piling, cribbing and deck plank at Port Dover, St. Williams, Port Rowan, Clear Creek, Port Burwell and Port Bruce, and also an order for material to build 26 tobacco kilns from Ontario Plantations as well as a number of kilns for private individuals which gave us a very busy summer at the sawmill. During this very busy time, I suffered a serious attack of ulcerated stomach, was refused life insurance on the suspicion that I might have stomach cancer which proved to be incorrect and completely recovered, although it continued to trouble me for three or four years. During these years I continued to operate the home farm, the Lamond farm and the Milton Inman farm and the Grandma Havens farm, with a large herd of Purebred Holstein cows and Yorkshire pigs and added farm to farm until I had more than a thousand acres of land.

The tobacco growing became quite profitable as a general business for everybody engaged in it and equipped farms soared so high in price that I eventually decided to sell all of my developed farms and some others suitable for growing tobacco retaining only Gray Croft, composed of the homestead, the Lamond farm, and the Inman farms, a little over two hundred acres. As demand for building lots developed, I sold mostly along the

roadway leading to the planing mill and along No. 19 Highway thus adding a dozen houses to the village, some of which I built but most were built by the lot purchasers.

While the tobacco and lumber interests were developing, Kitty began a serious condition of her life. Dr. McLay of Aylmer informed me nothing was known to medical science that would help her. Her nerves were not feeding her muscles and they would continue to grow softer until she would lose all control and die. This happened and she died about 9:30 p.m., Friday, April 14, 1944. We had lived more than fifty years happily together and her going left a serious void in my life, which seemed impossible to fill. At first I continued to keep the woman who had acted as nurse for Kitty and the woman who had been housekeeper, but eventually both left me alone and I had village women in once a week to tidy up and bake.

Arriving at Sunday school one Sunday morning late for the opening exercises, I went to the auditorium and found Mrs. Claude Wilson and Mrs. Ernest Scanlan before me. After some visiting conversation Mrs. Wilson said she did not think I should continue to live alone but thought I should marry again since I had no family. Mrs. Scanlan backed her up and a certain neighbourhood widow was named by them as a person whom they would not want me to take for second wife.

Later my niece, Pearl Gray Morris invited me to her home at Emsdale and while she was doing her kitchen work, she suggested I should take another wife. Replying my age was against it, she did not agree but continued to insist that I should not try to live alone. Leaving Emsdale by C.N. train, I transferred to C.P. at Toronto for Eden and was seated with a nice looking lady from B.C. going to a Church of England womens' gathering at London, Ontario. We soon got into friendly conversation. Learning I was a lone widower, she advised me to marry again. Thus after having been advised by four ladies, the first two being former school teachers at Eden and neighbours whom I respected, and the latter two wives of clergymen living miles apart, one a niece and therefore a family member, the other a complete stranger, each of these named a person whom they thought suitable.

Eventually I decided the advice of the four ladies should receive consideration and the young lady chosen by the member of my family was chosen and the evening of Jan. 1, 1945, was agreed upon when before about 20 friends, Barbara Hope Plank, school teacher at Emsdale, became my wife. We came to Toronto where we stayed a few days, did a little shopping, then on to Eden and home. The second night everybody and their children came shooting guns, ringing bells and using anything to make a noise and thus they welcomed Barbara to Eden and expressed approval of what I had done.

The annual church meeting being held the following week, after being elected to offices, we were called to the front and presented with a beautiful radio lamp and a large sandwich plate again approving our marriage and welcoming us to an active church and community life. A few days later meeting Carmon Ball in the store, I proposed that we join

them in a trip to Florida. Carmon had a brother living at Lakeworth and had made several trips and had spent several winters there. Ball arranged to spend the balance of the winter there but we could only get permission to stay out of Canada 28 days and take \$150.00 each with us. Wm. Ball had made arrangements for a cottage and we enjoyed the trip - three weeks on the Atlantic coast and one on the Gulf coast, where we saw our first porpoise.

Expenses were moderate but next year were much higher. We returned the next year, Carm driving his car, we paying expenses, costing us much more than by rail. Arriving a day or two before Christmas all Ontario people enjoyed Christmas dinner together at Mrs. Ball's. We spent most of this winter at Crystal Beach on the Gulf. Barbara was unwell, did not enjoy this trip at all and never wants to return.

We bought grapefruit and oranges by the bushel for \$1.00 and used them daily. The trip down was very unpleasant because of severe cold and deep snow. The return was pleasantly warm and enjoyable. That part beside the Susquehanna River was specially enjoyable.

Very noticeable was the absence of tea and butter. Prices for a loaf of bread less than half the weight of ours being 2¢ more than Canadian and the small quarts of milk 4/5 of our quart costing nearly double ours. Florida did not appeal to us for a home. A trip through the mideastern area would be enjoyable if made with agreeable company; otherwise would rather take pleasure and exploratory trips in Canada - north and west.

Mrs. Carmon Ball
Mr. Carmon Ball
Mrs. Martin Kidd
Mrs. Nathan Gray
(Barbara)
Mr. Nathan Gray

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