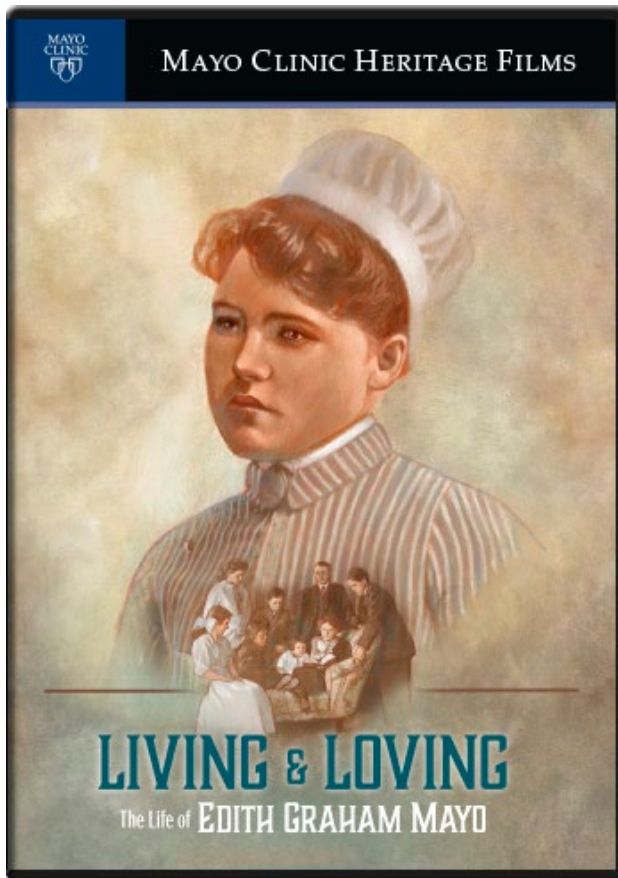




Mayo Clinic Heritage Films Discussion Guide

Living and Loving: The Life of Edith Graham Mayo



In 1889, soon after graduating from nursing school, 22-year-old Edith Graham joined the staff of Saint Marys Hospital, where she taught nursing skills to the Sisters of St. Francis. After marrying Dr. Charles H. Mayo in 1893, Edith lived an energetic and productive life, raising nine children, traveling, undertaking philanthropic activities and advising her husband as Mayo Clinic became a world-renowned medical center. “Living and Loving: The Life of Edith Graham Mayo” imagines her young granddaughter visiting Edith’s friends, relatives and former colleagues to learn about her impressive accomplishments and the many lives she touched. Filmed in historic locations, including Edith and Dr. Charlie’s beloved home, Mayowood, this film provides an intimate portrait of an influential figure in the history of Mayo Clinic.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think gave Edith the confidence to leave rural Minnesota and enroll in a nursing school in a big city?
2. Edith was turned down for a job in Chicago, only to encounter Dr. W.W. Mayo at the very moment he needed a professional nurse. What fateful encounters have you had that changed the course of your life?
3. What do you think was the foundation of Edith and Dr. Charlie's long and happy marriage?
4. What struggles did Edith face in her life? How did she cope with them? How do you cope with challenges and difficulties?
5. What do you think it means to have "an understanding heart"?
6. Young Mayo asked Edith what she considered to be the most important part of her life. Given Edith's work as a nurse, a mother, an active partner in her husband's career, a civic leader, a philanthropist and more, what do you think were her greatest accomplishments?
7. If someone was researching your life, what interesting and inspiring information would they discover about the times you've lived in and the experiences you've had?