

**MS-350**

**Quarter Century Club Records**

**Special Collections and Archives  
Wright State University Libraries**

**Processed by:  
Rachel DeHart and Jayna Hanson  
March 2007**

## **Introduction**

The Quarter Century Club Records were given to Wright State University Special Collections and Archives by Keith McMurray in May of 2005. 8 boxes (approximately 8 linear feet) of materials were received.

The collection includes correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, financial records, membership lists, administrative documents and obituaries. Most items were created by or about the Quarter Century Club members. These individuals were civilian or military personnel in an agency of the U.S. Department of Defense for at least 25 years and worked for a portion of that time at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The Club was formed to facilitate social activity among its members and to inspire younger employees to continue their work as public servants.

The Quarter Century Club Records date between 1946 and 1999. However, the vast majority of materials date to the 1960s-1980s.

There are no restrictions on the use of the Quarter Century Club Records.

The Quarter Century Club Records are organized into 5 series:

- Series I: Administration
- Series II: Membership
- Series III: Events
- Series IV: Photographs
- Series V: Scrapbooks

## **Organizational History**

The Wright-Patterson Quarter Century Club was formed to facilitate social activity among its members and to inspire younger employees to continue their work as public servants.

In 1943, employees of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base met to honor their Base Commander, Brigadier General H.A. Bartron. Between September 1944 and May 1946, six more meetings were held. In 1946, these employees secured the permission of the Base Commander Colonel Joseph Morris for the creation of a permanent organization for employees of areas A, B and C who had at least 25 years of government service. The original name of the group was The Old Timer's Club.

The first official meeting occurred on July 30, 1946 with 325 members, most from McCook Field, in attendance. The club's first officers were elected. In 1948 the name of the club was changed to the Wright-Patterson Field's Quarter Century Club. It was incorporated as the Wright-Patterson Quarter Century Club under the laws of the State of Ohio in 1963.

Civilian or military personnel who completed 25 years of accumulated service in any agency of the Department of Defense of the United States Government, provided a portion of that service was at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, were eligible for membership.

The Quarter Century Club met semi-annually, in October and May each year, for dinner meetings and induction of new members. Deceased members were memorialized at the fall meetings. The executive board met once monthly for luncheon meetings.

Upon induction, new members received a 10-karat gold pin or tie tack, a certificate of membership and membership card, and a free dinner at the semi-annual meeting.

## Scope and Content Note

The Quarter Century Club Records document the functions of the club, located at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Through this collection, researchers may gain insight into the social and administrative roles of a club in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Series I: Administration

The administrative papers of the Quarter Century Club document the fundamental business of the organization. Included in the first part of this series are: descriptions of officer duties, the club's constitution and history, meeting minutes, and examples of the stationary used in club functions. The second part of this series details the financial element of the club.

### Series II: Membership

The second series of the Quarter Century Club Records is composed of three distinct sections: membership lists, correspondence, and individual member files. The first of these are membership lists that detail board and officer members, new and current members, and deceased members of the Quarter Century Club. These membership lists were largely compiled by the club's longtime historian Russell S. Lyle. The correspondence portion of this Membership Series includes "Dear Member" newsletters and invitations, correspondence from members to the club's officers, and memos and letters written by Russell S. Lyle to the club's secretaries. Also included are individual member files for Margaret Cash, John Wolfe, and Russell S. Lyle. Within the Lyle folder (box 3 file 7) are letters from President Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Doolittle, and a signed Jimmy Doolittle postcard. A postcard of Major Shorty Schroeder, a personal friend of Russell Lyle, dates to 1924.

### Series III: Events

This third series is made up of programs from the Quarter Century Club's semi-annual dinner meetings. The programs span the years 1953 to 1999. Most include information about the dinner itself (menus), new members, special guests, and deceased members.

### Series IV: Photographs

Within the Photographs Series are two sets of photographs taken circa the 1960s and the 1990s. The photographs are undated and many individuals are not identified.

### Series V: Scrapbooks

The largest series of the Quarter Century Club Records, the scrapbooks begin in 1946 and span to 1988. They were compiled by the club's historians and include letters,

newspaper clippings, obituaries, photographs and minutes. They document the club's activities and important events in members' careers. Some years have multiple volumes; in cases in which the scrapbook is labeled with a volume number but the surrounding volumes do not exist, the original volume number has been preserved. No scrapbooks exist for the years 1976-1979. Scrapbooks that have been preserved may be contained in multiple folders, designated by "Part X of Y". A notable document in this series is a Jimmy Doolittle letter in the 1952 scrapbook (box 5 file 5).

## Container Listing

| <b>Series I Administration</b> |             |                              |                 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Box</b>                     | <b>File</b> | <b>Item</b>                  | <b>Date</b>     |
| 1                              | 1           | Constitutions                | 1948–1984       |
| 1                              | 2           | Officer Duties               | n.d.            |
| 1                              | 3           | History (scattered)          | 1970–1985, n.d. |
| 1                              | 4           | Minutes                      | 1972–1996       |
| 1                              | 5           | Committees                   | 1988, 1991      |
| 1                              | 6           | Membership Application       | n.d.            |
| 1                              | 7           | Stationary                   | n.d.            |
| 1                              | 8           | Financial Records            | 1946–1950       |
| 1                              | 9           | Financial Records            | 1952            |
| 1                              | 10          | Financial Records            | 1974, 1989      |
| 1                              | 11          | Monthly Financial Statements | 1981–1997       |
| 1                              | 12          | Income                       | 1959            |
| 1                              | 13          | Income                       | 1960            |
| 1                              | 14          | Income                       | 1961            |
| 1                              | 15          | Invoices                     | 1959            |
| 1                              | 16          | Invoices                     | 1960            |
| 1                              | 17          | Invoices                     | 1961            |
| 1                              | 18          | Invoices                     | 1962            |
| 1                              | 19          | Invoices                     | 1963            |
| 1                              | 20          | Check Stubs                  | 1958–1962       |
| <b>Series II: Membership</b>   |             |                              |                 |
| <b>Box</b>                     | <b>File</b> | <b>Item</b>                  | <b>Date</b>     |
| 1                              | 21          | Board Members                | 1980–1996       |
| 1                              | 22          | Honorary Members             | 1961–1981       |
| 1                              | 23          | Members                      | 1953            |
| 2                              | 1           | Members                      | 1954            |
| 2                              | 2           | Members                      | 1959            |
| 2                              | 3           | Members                      | 1971            |
| 2                              | 4           | Members                      | 1972            |
| 2                              | 5           | New Members                  | 1972–1975       |
| 2                              | 6           | New Members                  | 1976–1982, 1986 |
| 2                              | 7           | Unable to Locate             | 1997            |
| 2                              | 8           | Deceased Members             | 1974            |
| 2                              | 9           | Deceased Members             | 1975            |
| 2                              | 10          | Deceased Members             | 1976            |
| 2                              | 11          | Deceased Members             | 1979            |
| 2                              | 12          | Deceased Members             | 1980            |
| 2                              | 13          | Deceased Members             | 1981            |
| 2                              | 14          | Deceased Members             | 1982            |
| 2                              | 15          | Deceased Members             | 1983            |
| 2                              | 16          | Deceased Members             | 1984            |

|   |    |   |                          |
|---|----|---|--------------------------|
| 2 | 17 | Deceased Members                        | 1985                     |
| 2 | 18 | Deceased Members                        | 1986                     |
| 2 | 19 | Deceased Members                        | 1988                     |
| 2 | 20 | Deceased Members                        | 1989                     |
| 2 | 21 | Deceased Members                        | 1990                     |
| 2 | 22 | Deceased Members                        | ca. 1997                 |
| 3 | 1  | Obituaries                              | 1977–1994                |
| 3 | 2  | Correspondence – General                | 1951, 1959–1996          |
| 3 | 3  | Correspondence – Death Notices          | 1984–1994                |
| 3 | 4  | Correspondence – Donations and Regrets  | 1994                     |
| 3 | 5  | Correspondence – Russell S. Lyle        | 1959 – 1982, ca.<br>1988 |
| 3 | 6  | Cash, Margaret                          | 1981 – ca. 1986          |
| 3 | 7  | Lyle, Russell S.                        | 1924–1989                |
| 3 | 8  | Wolfe, John                             | 1989                     |
| 3 | 9  | Wright Patterson AFB / Member Interests | 1977–1992, n.d.          |

**Series III: Events**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>File</b> | <b>Item</b>     | <b>Date</b> |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 3          | 10          | Dinner Programs | 1953–1990   |
| 3          | 11          | Dinner Programs | 1991–1999   |

**Series IV: Photographs**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>File</b> | <b>Item</b>        | <b>Date</b> |
|------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 4          | 1           | Semi-Annual Dinner | ca. 1960s   |
| 4          | 2           | Semi-Annual Dinner | ca. 1990    |

**Series V: Scrapbooks**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>File</b> | <b>Item</b>                       | <b>Date</b> |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 5          | 1           | Scrapbook (Part 1 of 4)           | 1946–1951   |
| 5          | 2           | Scrapbook (Part 2 of 4)           | 1946–1951   |
| 5          | 3           | Scrapbook (Part 3 of 4)           | 1946–1951   |
| 5          | 4           | Scrapbook (Part 4 of 4)           | 1946–1951   |
| 5          | 5           | Scrapbook (Part 1 of 2)           | 1952        |
| 5          | 6           | Scrapbook (Part 2 of 2)           | 1952        |
| 5          | 7           | Scrapbook (Part 1 of 3)           | 1955        |
| 5          | 8           | Scrapbook (Part 2 of 3)           | 1955        |
| 5          | 9           | Scrapbook (Part 3 of 3)           | 1955        |
| 6          | 1           | Scrapbook (Part 1 of 2)           | 1956        |
| 6          | 2           | Scrapbook (Part 2 of 2)           | 1956        |
| 6          | 3           | Scrapbook, Volume 1 (Part 1 of 3) | 1957-1958   |
| 6          | 4           | Scrapbook, Volume 1 (Part 2 of 3) | 1957-1958   |
| 6          | 5           | Scrapbook, Volume 1 (Part 3 of 3) | 1957-1958   |
| 7          | 1           | Scrapbook, Volume 2               | 1957-1958   |
| 7          | 2           | Scrapbook                         | 1958-1959   |
| 7          | 3           | Scrapbook                         | 1959-1960   |

|    |    |                     |           |
|----|----|---------------------|-----------|
| 7  | 4  | Scrapbook           | 1960-1961 |
| 7  | 5  | Scrapbook           | 1962-1963 |
| 7  | 6  | Scrapbook           | 1963-1964 |
| 7  | 7  | Scrapbook           | 1965      |
| 7  | 8  | Scrapbook           | 1966      |
| 7  | 9  | Scrapbook           | 1967      |
| 7  | 10 | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1968      |
| 8  | 1  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1968      |
| 8  | 2  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1969      |
| 8  | 3  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1969      |
| 8  | 4  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1970      |
| 8  | 5  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1970      |
| 8  | 6  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1971      |
| 8  | 7  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1971      |
| 8  | 8  | Scrapbook, Volume 3 | 1971      |
| 8  | 9  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1973      |
| 8  | 10 | Scrapbook, Volume 4 | 1973      |
| 8  | 11 | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1974      |
| 9  | 1  | Scrapbook           | 1975      |
| 9  | 2  | Scrapbook           | 1980      |
| 9  | 3  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1981      |
| 9  | 4  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1981      |
| 9  | 5  | Scrapbook, Volume 3 | 1981      |
| 9  | 6  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1982      |
| 9  | 7  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1982      |
| 9  | 8  | Scrapbook, Volume 3 | 1982      |
| 9  | 9  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1983      |
| 9  | 10 | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1983      |
| 9  | 11 | Scrapbook, Volume 3 | 1983      |
| 10 | 1  | Scrapbook, Volume 4 | 1983      |
| 10 | 2  | Scrapbook, Volume 5 | 1983      |
| 10 | 3  | Scrapbook, Volume 6 | 1983      |
| 10 | 4  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1984      |
| 10 | 5  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1984      |
| 10 | 6  | Scrapbook, Volume 3 | 1984      |
| 10 | 7  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1985      |
| 10 | 8  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1985      |
| 10 | 9  | Scrapbook, Volume 3 | 1985      |
| 10 | 10 | Scrapbook, Volume 4 | 1985      |
| 10 | 11 | Scrapbook, Volume 5 | 1985      |
| 10 | 12 | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1986      |
| 11 | 1  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1986      |
| 11 | 2  | Scrapbook, Volume 3 | 1986      |
| 11 | 3  | Scrapbook, Volume 4 | 1986      |
| 11 | 4  | Scrapbook, Volume 5 | 1986      |
| 11 | 5  | Scrapbook, Volume 6 | 1986      |



|    |    |                     |      |
|----|----|---------------------|------|
| 11 | 6  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1987 |
| 11 | 7  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1987 |
| 11 | 8  | Scrapbook, Volume 3 | 1987 |
| 11 | 9  | Scrapbook, Volume 4 | 1987 |
| 11 | 10 | Scrapbook, Volume 5 | 1987 |
| 11 | 11 | Scrapbook, Volume 6 | 1987 |
| 12 | 1  | Scrapbook, Volume 7 | 1987 |
| 12 | 2  | Scrapbook, Volume 1 | 1988 |
| 12 | 3  | Scrapbook, Volume 2 | 1988 |
| 12 | 4  | Scrapbook, Volume 3 | 1988 |

---