

## MS-398: Wright Company Glass Plate Negative Collection

**Collection Number:** MS-398

**Title:** Wright Company Glass Plate Negative Collection

**Dates:** 1900-1913, 2009 (bulk 1910-1911)

**Creator:** Unknown

**Summary/Abstract:** The Wright Company Glass Plate Negative collection consists of 92 glass plate negatives, and 10 film negatives relating to the Wright Company, the Wright School of Aviation, flights at Kitty Hawk, N.C., celebrations and aviation events, and a series of unidentified children.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 2.5 linear feet (92 glass plate negatives and 10 film negatives)

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:** Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection. However, please use reference prints when possible to reduce handling of fragile originals.

**Restrictions on Use:** Copyright restriction may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

**Preferred Citation:** [Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-398, Wright Company Glass Plate Negative Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:** Purchased at auction from Cowan's of Cincinnati in June 2009.

**Related Material:**

MS-1 Wright Brothers Collection

MS-152 Dayton-Wright Airplane Company Collection

**Existence and Location of Copies:** A selection of images from this collection is available online in Wright State University's Campus Online Repository (CORE Scholar):  
[https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special\\_ms398/](https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms398/).

**Note:** Many of the images are copy negatives made from photographs, which is indicated in the item level inventory.

**Processing Information:** The images in this collection were identified by comparing them to prints in the Wright Brothers Collection. If the image is a duplicate of an image in the Wright Brothers Collection or within this collection, the repository number (Collection number-Box #-File #-Item Number) for the duplicate image is included after the image description.

**Processed by:** Elizabeth K. Morgan, Fall 2009

**Revisions:** Finding aid revised by Toni Vanden Bos, 2019 December.

**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged in five series:

- Series I. Wright Company Factory, 1910-1911
- Series II. Wright School of Aviation, 1908-1913
- Series III. Early Flight, 1900-1910
- Series IV. Celebrations and Aviation Events, 1909-1911
- Series V. Children, circa 1911
- Series VI. Reference Prints of Negatives, 2009

**Historical Note:**

The Wright Company was founded in November 1909 with the financial backing of New York investors who were interested in backing the fledgling aviation industry. In January 1910, the Wright Company set up a factory in Dayton, Ohio, and established a flying field and flight school at Huffman Prairie. The Wright Company rented factory space from the Speedwell Motor Car Company in Dayton, from January 1910 until the Wright Company factory at 2701 Home Road in Dayton was completed in November 1910.

The brothers hired Roy Knabenshue, an experienced balloon and airship pilot, to manage an exhibition flying team. Although the Wrights were not eager to enter the “mountebank business,” as they referred to stunt flying and exhibitions, they recognized that an exhibition team would add to their income. The Wright exhibition team first performed at Indianapolis, Indiana, in June 1910. It stayed in business until November 1911, when the deaths of several team members prompted the Wrights to discontinue it. The Wright School of Aviation, however operated through 1915. For a short time, in the spring of 1910, Orville Wright and Charlie Taylor, their longtime mechanic, set up a flying school in Montgomery, Alabama, where Maxwell Air Force Base would later be located.

In the summer of 1910 the Wright Company introduced what would become their most popular aircraft, the Wright Model B, which was produced from 1910-1914. Orville sold the Wright Company in 1915.

**Scope and Content:**

Series I, The Wright Company Factory, consists of 19 glass plate 5”x7” negatives and 1 nitrate film negative of different departments in the factory, with employees at work. Most of the images are from the Wright Company’s Home Road location in Dayton, Ohio. Frank Quinn, James Davis, Dan Farrell, Bill Conover, and Ida Holdgreve are identified in this series.

Series II, Wright School of Aviation, contains many posed photographs of men either standing next to or sitting in a Wright airplane. There are also images of Wright airplanes in flight. The following men are found in this series: Steinway, Harry Harold, Arthur L. Welsh, Ralph Johnstone, Archibald Hoxsey, Frank Coffyn, Walter Brookins, and James Davis.

Series III, Early Flight, consists of ten images of the first flight, other Kitty Hawk images, and the Wright Flyer in flight.

Series IV, Celebrations and Aviation Events, consists of five images, including Claude Grahame's landing on Executive Avenue in Washington D.C., and the Wright Homecoming Celebration of 1909, as well as a few other unidentified events. There are also images of Max Morehouse and Roy Knabenshue.

Series V, Children, consists of images of a few children. The majority of the images are studio images, but a few appear less formal. The children are unidentified; however, the name Hermes is written on a few of the glass plates.

Series VI, Reference Prints of Negatives, consists of 8"x10" prints of the negatives in the collection. They are arranged in order of Series I through V and are numbered on the reverse of the photograph. Researchers are encouraged to use the prints in this series in place of the fragile negatives.

## **Subject Terms:**

### **Persons/Families:**

Wright, Wilbur, 1867-1912.

Wright, Orville, 1871-1948.

### **Organizations/Corporate Names:**

Wright Company.

Wright Flying School

### **Places**

Dayton (Ohio)

Montgomery (Ala.)

### **Subjects:**

Aeronautics--United States--History

Airplanes--Design and construction

Airplanes—History

Air pilots – United States

### **Material Types**

Glass plate negatives

Photographs

Negatives (photographs)

## Collection Inventory

A selection of images is available online in Wright State University's Campus Online Repository (CORE Scholar): [https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special\\_ms398/](https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms398/).

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series I: Wright Company Factory</b>			<b>1910-1911</b>
1	1	Wire Cutting Department of the Wright Company with Frank Quinn and James Davis at work. Same as ms1_21_3_4	1911
1	2	Superintendent's office of the Wright Company. Same as ms1_21_3_1.	1911
1	3	Radiator Department of the Wright Company with Frank Quinn at work. Same as ms1_21_3_8.	1911
1	4	Male employee in hat and bow tie works on the skeleton wing of an airplane, while female employee sews in background in the Wright Company factory. Same as ms398_1_5 (bottom).	1911
1	5	Copy negative of two images. Top: Male pilot seated in a Wright Model B Flyer. Bottom: Male employee in hat and bow tie works on the skeleton wing of an airplane, while female employee sews in background in the Wright Company factory. Same as ms398_1_4.	1911
1	6	Corner of the Wood Working Department of the Wright Company. The employees are Dan Farrell, Frank M. Quinn, and Bill Conover. Same as ms1_21_3_7.	1911
1	7	Cylinder and Motor Parts Department of the Wright Company with four men working at machines. Note: paper is adhered to emulsion on part of the glass plate negative.	1911
1	8	Wright Model B Flyer on the floor of the Wright Company factory, partially covered by sheet. Piles of wood and wheels in foreground. Same as ms398_1_9.	1911
1	9	Wright Model B Flyer on the floor of the Wright Company factory, partially covered by sheet. Piles of wood and wheels in foreground. Same as ms398_1_8.	1911

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	10	General Machine Shop of the Wright Company factory with male employees working at machines. Same as ms1_21_3_5.	1911
1	11	Metal Fitting and Motor Assembly Department of the Wright Company. with male employees working Same as ms1_21_3_6.	1911
1	12	Corner of the Paint Shop of the Wright Company with Steinway and Harry Harold at work. Same as ms1_21_3_12.	1911
1	13	Copy negative of two images. Top: Inside of Wright Company factory, 1911. Bottom: A Wright Model B Flyer sits on a cart being pulled by a truck outside the Speedwell Motor Car Company factory. The Wright Company rented factory space from the Speedwell company beginning in Jan 1910 until the Wright Company factory at 2701 Home Road in Dayton was completed in Nov 1910. Same as ms1_20_7_13.	1910, 1911
1	14	Corner of the Sewing Department with Ida Holdgreve at work. Same as ms1_21_3_10.	1911
1	15	General Assembly Department of the Wright Company with a male employee working on a Wright Model B Flyer and two male employees working nearby on a wing. Similar to ms1_21_3_3 and ms398_1_17.	1911
1	16	Propeller and Rib Department of the Wright Company with five employees working. Same as ms1_21_3_9	1911
1	17	General Assembly Department of the Wright Company with a male employee working on a Wright Model B Flyer and two male employees working nearby on a wing. Same as ms1_21_3_3 And similar to ms398_1_15.	1911
1	18	Exterior side view of the Wright Company factory.	1911
1	19	Cloth Cutting Department of the Wright Company factory. Male employee working over a template.	1911

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	20	Max Morehouse seated in a Wright Model B Flyer under construction. Morehouse was president of the Morehouse-Martens Company which sponsored the November 1910 flight transporting ten bolts of fabric from Dayton to Columbus, Ohio. It marked the first-time cargo was shipped by airplane. (5"x7" nitrate film negative).	1910
<b>Series II: Wright School of Aviation</b>			<b>1908-1913</b>
2	1	Copy negative of two images. Top: A propeller on the Wright Model B Flyer with hanger in background. Same as ms1_19_3_14. Bottom: The front rudder of the Wright Model B Flyer. Same as ms1_19_3_12.	1910
2	2	Two student pilots fitting the Wright Model A Flyer on the launch rail. Spencer Crane, Archibald Hoxsey, and another man are nearby. Studio Label "Tresslar's Studio/Montgomery, Ala." Same as ms1_19_6_1.	1910
2	3	Copy negative of Spencer Crane and Archibald Hoxsey tightening the nut on the propeller of the Wright Model A Flyer. Same as ms1_19_6_20 and ms 398_2_4.	1910
2	4	Copy negative of two images. Right: Spencer Crane and Archibald Hoxsey tightening the nut on the propeller of the Wright Model A Flyer. Same as ms1_19_6_20 and ms398_2_3. Left: Wright Flyer soars in air.	1910
2	5	Copy negative of two images. Top: Two student pilots cranking the propellers of the Wright Model A Flyer. Labeled "Tresslar's Studio/Montgomery, Ala." Same as ms1_19_6_2. Bottom: Wright Orville Wright demonstrating wing warping with the Wright Model A Flyer at Huffman Prairie. Same as ms1_19_3_10. NOTE: emulsion is heavily flaking.	1910
2	6	Copy negative of two images. Bottom: Spencer Crane oiling the chain on the Wright Model A Flyer. Labeled "Tresslar's Studio/Montgomery, Ala." Same as ms1_19_6_15. Top: close up of engine and seat of plane.	1910
2	7	Albert B. Lambert and Orville Wright seated in the Wright	1910 May

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
		Model A Flyer. Similar to ms1_19_3_4	
2	8	Male pilot seated in Wright Model B Flyer.	circa 1911
2	9	Wright Model B in flight.	circa 1911
2	10	Copy negative of Wright Model B high in sky.	circa 1911
2	11	Wright Flyer in flight over field.	circa 1911
2	12	Pilot H. Roy Waite seated in a Wright Model B Flyer.	circa 1911
2	13	Three men in a field watching a Wright Model B in flight.	1911
2	14	Two Wright Model B Flyers in flight above a field. Same as ms398_4_4. lined with trees.	circa 1911
2	15	Wright Model B Flyer sits outside open hanger at Huffman Prairie. Car and people in the background.	circa 1911
2	16	Copy negative of Duval La Chapelle, Arthur L. Welsh, Orville Wright, James Davis, Ralph Johnstone, and Frank Coffyn standing near the Wright Model A Flyer. Same as ms1_19_3_5.	circa 1911
2	17	Copy negative of two images. Left: Arthur L. Welsh seated in a Wright Model B Flyer at Huffman Prairie. Same as ms1_20_8_26). Right: Ralph Johnstone seated in a Wright Model B.	1911
2	18	Copy negative of two images. Top: The Wright Model A Flyer in flight. Bottom: two Wright Model B planes in flight.	1910
2	19	Plane (likely a Wright Model B) on ground in distance. Trees and power lines in the distance. 4"x5" glass plate.	circa 1911
2	20	Arthur L. Welsh and unidentified man seated in the Wright Model B.	circa 1911
2	21	The eight-cylinder engine of the Wright Model R Flyer which is also called the Baby Grand. Same as ms1_19_3_17. 5"x7" nitrate film negative. Advanced deterioration.	1910

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	22	Wright Model G "Aeroboat" moving on the Miami River. Film negative, 3 ½"x 5 ½"".	1913 November
2	23	Right front view of Wright Model G "Aeroboat" moving on the Miami River. Same as ms1_20_3_6. Film negative 3 ½"x 5"	1913 November
2	24	Right profile view of a Wright Model G in flight just above the Miami River, November 1913. Similar to ms1_20_3_16. Film negative 3 ½"x 5".	1913 November
2	25	Right front view of two men holding the tail of a Wright Model G in the Miami River. Same as ms1_20_3_16.	1913 November
2	26	Two student pilots fitting the Wright Model A Flyer on the launch rail. Spencer Crane, Archibald Hoxsey, and another man are nearby. Film negative 3 ½" x 5". Same as ms1_19_6_1.	1910
3	1	Copy negative of two images. Top: Duval La Chapelle, Arthur L. Welsh, Orville Wright, James Davis, Ralph Johnstone, and Frank Coffyn standing near the Wright Model A Flyer. Same as ms1_19_3_5. Bottom: Wright Model B sits in field. Same as ms398_3_2 and ms398_3_12.	1910
3	2	Wright Model B sits in field. Same as ms398_3_1 (bottom image) and ms398_3_12.	1910
3	3	Wright Model B Flyer low in flight over a field.	circa 1911
3	4	Copy negative of male pilot seated in a 1911 Wright Model B. Same as ms398_3_10.	circa 1911
3	5	Wright Model B soars above field.	circa 1911
3	6	Wright Model B taking off. Same as ms398_3_7.	circa 1911
3	7	Wright Model B taking off. Same as ms398_3_6.	circa 1911
3	8	Male pilot soars above field in modified Wright Model A. Ten plus men stand as spectators. Same as ms398_3_9.	circa 1911



<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
3	9	Copy negative of ms398_3_8. Male pilot soars above field in modified Wright Model A. Ten plus men stand as spectators.3"x4" glass plate.	circa 1911
3	10	Copy negative of male pilot seated in a 1911 Wright Model B. Same as ms398_3_4.	circa 1911
3	11	Male pilot seated in Wright Model B Flyer.	circa 1911
3	12	Front view of Wright Model B sitting in field. Same as ms398_3_1 (bottom image) and ms398_3_2	1910
3	13	Eleven men stand in front of the Wright Model B, Same as ms398_3_14.	circa 1911
3	14	Eleven men stand in front of the Wright Model B, Same as ms398_3_13.	circa 1911
3	15	Copy negative of two images. Left: Close view of the 4-cylinder motor of a Wright Model B Flyer. Same as ms1_19_3_13. Right: Left profile view through the wing of a Wright Model B Flyer. Same as ms1_19_3_11.	1910
3	16	Two men in Wright Model B, Spectators include a woman, man, and child on one side.	circa 1911
3	17	Wright Model B flies above a field lined with power lines, nearby is street car stop known as Simms Station.	circa 1911
4	1	Copy negative of a rearview of the Wright Model A Flyer in flight. Same as ms1_19_4_28.	1910
4	2	Copy negative of Wright Model A Flyer piloted by Orville Wright at Fort Myer, Virginia. Same as ms398_4_3 and ms1_17_8_14.	1908
4	3	Copy negative of Wright Model A Flyer flying at Fort Myer, Virginia. Same as ms398_4_2 and ms1_17_8_14.	1908
4	4	Two Wright Model B Flyers in flight above a field. Same as ms398_2_4.	circa 1911

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
4	5	Copy negative of Arch Hoxsey pouring water into the radiator of the Wright Model A Flyer while standing with one foot on a front support and the other on the shoulder of Walter Brookins. Spencer Crane looks on. Photo by Tresslar's Studio, Montgomery. Same as ms1_19_6_11.	1910
4	6	A passenger flight in a Wright Model A Flyer at Huffman Prairie. Same as ms1_19_4_23.	1910
4	7	Image showing Wright Model B overhead in flight.	circa 1911
4	8	Wright Model B soars above field; man crouches down in the foreground. 3"x4" glass plate.	circa 1911
4	9	Copy negative of two images. Left image is scratched through. Image on right is of the left rear view of a Wright Model B Flyer.	1910
<b>Series III: Early Flight</b>			<b>1900-1910</b>
4	10	Copy negative of two images. Top: Wilbur Wright after landing the Wright 1901 glider at Kill Devil Hills. Written on side "1901." Same as ms1_15_5_32. Bottom: Wilbur Wright piloting the Wright 1902 glider at Big Kill Devil Hill. This photograph is attributed to Lorin Wright. Same as of ms1_15_6_10.	1901-1902
4	11	Copy negative of Wilbur Wright making a right turn in the Wright 1902 glider fitted with a single moveable vertical rudder. Orville Wright's notebook indicates that this glide was made from the West Hill at Kill Devil Hills. "1902" handwritten on side. Same as ms1_15_6_34.	circa 1902
4	12	Copy negative of two images. Top: Right profile view of the Flyer ready for flight testing, December, 1902. Duplicate ms1_16_3_15b. Bottom: The first controlled, powered, heavier-than-air flight. Orville Wright pilots the Wright 1903 Flyer while Wilbur runs and watches the take off. Same as ms1_16_2_12.	1902-1903
4	13	Copy negative of two images. Top: Orville Wright pilots the Wright 1904 Flyer on its 85th flight at Huffman Prairie, near Dayton, Ohio. Same as ms1_16_5_35 and	1900, 1904 November 15

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
		ms398_4_17. Bottom: 1900 Glider flying as a kite. Same as ms398_4_14 and ms1_15_4_37	
4	14	Copy negative of 1900 Glider flying as a kite. Same as ms398_4_13 and ms1_15_4_37.	1900
4	15	Black on white silhouette portrait of Wilbur Wright in profile. Same as ms1_23_1_3.	undated
4	16	Image of an aircraft (likely a Curtiss model) being flown off of a ship, with another ship in the background.	circa 1910
4	17	Orville Wright pilots the Wright 1904 Flyer on its 85th flight at Huffman Prairie, near Dayton, Ohio. Same as ms1_16_5_35 and ms398_4_13.	1904
4	18	Copy negative of left front view of Wilbur Wright piloting the Wright 1902 glider off of Big Kill Devil Hill. Same as ms1_15_6_11.	1902
4	19	The Wright Model B Flyer in flight over Dayton, Ohio. Same as ms1_19_4_35. The original photograph is annotated on the front and back by Orville Wright as a fake.	1910
<b>Series IV:</b>		<b>Celebrations and Aviation Events</b>	<b>1909-1910</b>
5	1	Copy negative of two images of the Homecoming Celebration on June 18 and 19, 1909. Top: American flag made of school children, similar to ms192_078. Bottom: The Court of Honor at the Wright Brothers Homecoming Celebration parade. This photograph is attributed to John J. Keyes, Dayton, Ohio. Similar to ms1_21_1_12.	1909
5	2	Copy negative of a parade scene, likely during the Homecoming Celebration.	1909
5	3	Claude Grahame-White landing in a Farman-type biplane on Executive Avenue near the White House. Spectators line the street observing the landing. Same as ms1_20_10_9.	1910
5	4	Copy negative of Max Morehouse (left) and Roy Knabenshue seated in a Wright Model B Flyer under	1910

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
		construction. Morehouse was president of the Morehouse-Martens Company which sponsored the November 1910 flight transporting ten bolts of fabric from Dayton to Columbus, Ohio. It marked the first-time cargo was shipped by airplane.	
5	5	Model B soars above field; sign along horizon reads "Aviator Event." Studio name on corner reads "5646 Clemens Ave. St. Louis". Negative is chipped.	1910
<b>Series V:</b>		<b>Children</b>	<b>circa 1911</b>
5	6	Class photo of fifteen boys and a woman taken in front of bushes Note boy in 2 <sup>nd</sup> row is sticking out his tongue. 3"x4" glass plate.	circa 1911
5	7	Older boy stands in front of shrubs, wearing the same outfit as in photo. Same as ms398_5_8. Glass plate 3"x4".	circa 1911
5	8	Baby boy sits in chair on table, holding pipe in mouth. Handwritten on back "Hermes". Same boy as in ms398_5_11 through ms398_5_18.	circa 1911
5	9	Baby boy seated, dropping tobacco pipe with his foot on a hat. Same boy as in ms398_5_10 through ms398_5_18.	circa 1911
5	10	Baby boy with hat stands next to table, Handwritten on back "Hermes". Same boy as inms398_5_10 through ms398_5_18.	circa 1911
5	11	Baby boy wearing hat and standing in front of table looks down at pipe in hand. Handwritten on back "Hermes". Same boy as in ms398_5_10 through ms398_5_18.	circa 1911
5	12	Baby boy wearing hat leans on table where a baby bottle sits. Handwritten on back "Hermes". Same boy as in ms398_5_10 through ms398_5_18. Same as ms398_5_14. Large chip on side.	circa 1911
5	13	Baby boy in hat stands next to table, holding tobacco pipe in mouth. Handwritten on back "Hermes". Same boy as in ms398_5_10 through ms398_5_18.	circa 1911

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
5	14	Baby boy wearing hat leans on table where a baby bottle sits. Handwritten on back "Hermes". Same boy as in ms398_5_10 through ms398_5_18. Same as ms398_5_12.	circa 1911
5	15	Baby in gown seated on edge of table. Same boy as ms398_5_10 through ms398_5_18.	circa 1911
5	16	Baby in gown seated on table next to a man in a suit. Same boy as in ms398_5_10 through ms398_5_18.	circa 1911
5	17	Five women and children in an automobile parked in front of houses. People walking in street in background. 3"x4" glass plate.	circa 1911
5	18	Little boy wearing a Little Lord Fauntleroy suit holds a straw hat and a cane Same boy as in ms398_5_19 and ms398_5_20.	circa 1911
5	19	Little boy wearing a Little Lord Fauntleroy suit holds a straw hat and a cane. Same boy as in ms398_5_18 and ms398_5_20.	circa 1911
5	20	Little boy wearing a Little Lord Fauntleroy suit sits on a stool while holding a cane. Same boy as in ms398_5_18 and ms398_5_19.	circa 1911
<b>Series VI: Reference Prints of Negatives</b>			<b>2009</b>
6	1	Reference prints for Box 1 (images dated 1910-1911)	2009
6	2	Reference prints for Box 2 (images dated 1910-1911, 1913)	2009
6	3	Reference prints for Box 3 (images dated 1910-circa 1911)	2009
6	4	Reference prints for Box 4 (images dated 1900-circa 1911)	2009
6	5	Reference prints for Box 5 (images dated 1909-circa 1911)	2009