

MS-585 Wright Family to Petree Family Correspondence

Collection Number: MS-585

Title: Wright Family to Petree Family Correspondence

Dates: 1900-1939 (bulk 1900-1917)

Creator: Wright, Milton, 1823-1917. Haskell, Katharine Wright, 1874-1929. Wright, Orville, 1871-1948. Wright, Reuchlin, 1861-1920.

Summary/Abstract:

The Wright Family to Petree Family Correspondence primarily contains letters written by Milton Wright to his niece Estella Harris Petree. The letters describe Wright family news and activities, but more importantly include specific references to Wilbur and Orville Wright's bicycle business, flying experiments and success, Orville Wright's accident at Ft. Myer in September 1908, the 1913 Dayton flood, and Milton's flight with Orville in May 1910. There is also a very poignant letter written by Reuchlin Wright describing the death of his father, Milton, in 1917. Additional items include correspondence from Orville Wright and two photographs that appear to be clipped from publications.

Quantity: .5 linear feet

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.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

(Box Number, Item Number), MS-585, Wright Family to Petree Family Correspondence, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: The Wright Family to Petree Family Correspondence was donated by Mary Carlton in October 2010.

Processed By:

Dawne Dewey, July 2017.

Arrangement:

The collection is divided into 2 series:

Series I: Correspondence
Series II: Photographs

Biographical/Historical Note

The Wright Family to Petree Family Correspondence contains letters written by members of the Wright family of Dayton, Ohio, to relatives in the Petree family in Nebraska between 1900 and 1939. Milton Wright, father of the Wright Brothers, was a prolific writer and corresponded with family and friends throughout his life. The majority of the letters are written by Bishop Milton Wright to his niece, Estella Harris Petree. Estella was the daughter of Milton Wright's sister, Sarah Wright Harris. There are a few additional letters written by Milton's sons, Reuchlin Wright and Orville Wright.

Scope and Content Note

Series I, Correspondence, contains letters written by Milton Wright to Estella Harris Petree spanning the years 1900 to 1917. Milton's letters describe the activities of his children and their families, including references to Wilbur and Orville Wright's bicycle business, flying experiments and fame. Of special interest is a letter in which Milton describes Orville's injuries following the accident at Ft. Myer, Virginia, in 1908 in which his passenger, Lt. Selfridge was killed. Milton also comments on his own flight with Orville Wright at Huffman Prairie in Dayton in May 1910. There is also a mention of the 1913 Dayton flood. Another item of interest is a handwritten biographical sketch of Sarah Wright Harris, prepared by Milton Wright and sent to his niece. A letter from Reuchlin to his cousin Estella in April 1917 provides a detailed description of Milton Wright's death on April 3, 1917. There are two additional pieces, a telegram notifying the Petree family of Milton's death, April 3, 1917 and an acknowledgement of sympathy card from Orville Wright. The card has a handwritten note by Katharine Wright, the Wright Brothers' younger sister.

Series II, Photographs, contains two photographs mounted on gray cardstock. Their origin appears to be from a publication, as they are not printed on photographic paper, but on regular paper or print. The photos are a portrait of Milton Wright and a photograph of Wilbur and Orville Wright walking down the steps of a building. Neither photograph is dated.

Transcripts of the correspondence are included at the end of the collection.

Subject Terms**Persons/Families**

Wright, Milton, 1828-1917
Wright, Orville, 1871-1948
Wright, Wilbur, 1867-1912

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Haskell, Katharine Wright, 1874-1929
 Wright, Reuchlin, 1861-1920
 Wright, Lorin, 1862-1939
 Petree, Estella Harris, 1860-1940
 Harris, Sarah Wright, 1824-1868
 Petree, John Franklin "Frank", 1861-1941
 Petree, Leo, 1893-1983
 Petree, Harris E., 1929-1983
 Wright family
 Harris family
 Petree family

Places

Dayton (Ohio) – History—20th Century

Subjects (General)

Aeronautics – History
 Aeronautics -- Flights

Material Types

Genealogies (histories)
 Letters (correspondence)
 Postcards
 Telegram
 Photographs (clipped from publication, on paper)

Series I: Correspondence			
		Transcripts are available at the end of the box.	
Box	Item	Description	Date
1	1	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1900 January 8
	2	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1902 May 26
	3	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1904 June 17
	4	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1905 January 20
	5	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1906 April 21
	6	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1906 August 21
	7	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1907 October 2
	8	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1908 September 29
	9	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1909 February 10
	10	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1910 September 9
	11	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1911 January 7
	12	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1911 June 17

Box	Item	Description	Date
	13	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1911 October 10
	14	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1912 January 20
	15	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1912 June 26
	16	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1912 July 3
	17	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1912 August 8
	18	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1912 December 20
	19	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1913 February 7
	20	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1913 May 10
	21	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1913 June 2
	22	Milton Wright to Mrs. Frank (Estella) Petree - Postcard	1914 January 9
	23	Milton Wright to Mrs. Estella Petree – Postcard	1914 November 30
	24	Milton Wright to Mrs. Estella Petree – Postcard	1915 January 8
	25	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1915 November 22
	26	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1915 December 25
	27	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1916 June 10
	28	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1916 October 25
	29	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1916 December 6
	30	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1916 December 26
	31	Milton Wright to Estella Petree	1917 March 3
	32	Milton Wright to Harris E. Petree	1913 May 10
	33	Milton Wright to Leo Petree (Postcard)	1912 May 13
	34	Biographical sketch of Sarah Wright Harris, written by Milton Wright in Dayton, Ohio, February 9, 1913 Assumed it was sent to Estella as an enclosure	1913 February 9
	35	Reuchlin Wright to Estella Petree: No Date, but shortly after death of Milton Wright, April 1917	1917 April
	36	Orville Wright to Cousin (Wright Brothers letterhead)	1908 December 10
	37	Telegram from Orville Wright to Mr. Frank R. Petree informing him of Milton's death	1917 April 3
	38	Acknowledgement of Sympathy, printed card from Orville Wright and Katharine Wright, handwritten note by Katharine	No month and day, 1917
	39	Orville Wright to Estella Petree (second page only)	No Date
	40	Orville Wright to Leo Petree (letter and envelope)	1939 January 12
Series II: Photographs			
1	41	Rev. Milton Wright D.D. from publication, mounted	No Date

	42	Wilbur and Orville Wright walking down steps of building Unidentified location, mounted	No Date
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