

**MS-595 Ellis Wright First Flight Anniversary Scrapbook**

**Collection Number:** MS-595

**Title:** Ellis Wright First Flight Anniversary Scrapbook

**Dates:** 1909-1970

**Creator:** Mary and Wilbur Reeder

**Summary/Abstract:** Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, programs, first day issue Wright Brothers stamps, invitations, and photographs documenting Ellis Wright's participation in the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wright Brothers first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1949. Ellis Wright was a first cousin to Wilbur and Orville Wright.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 0.5 linear feet, one scrapbook

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, 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:**

[Description of item, Date, Box 1, Folder #], MS-595, Ellis Wright First Flight Anniversary Scrapbook, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:** Transferred to Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University, from the St. Petersburg Museum of History, St. Petersburg, Florida, March 29, 2002.

**Custodial History:** Originally donated to the St. Petersburg Museum of History, St. Petersburg, Florida by Bill Reeder. Scrapbook was created by Wilbur and Mary Reeder. Wilbur Reeder was Ellis Wright's grandson.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:** Scrapbook

**Related Material:** MS-1 Wright Brothers Collection, MS-216 Ivonette Wright Miller Collection

**Notes:** Acidic scrapbook with loose newspaper clippings, a few original photos, programs in good condition, a few issues of the Tarheel Postmaster, and one issue of Collier's Magazine, 1949.

**Processed by:** Dawne Dewey, July 2017

**Arrangement:** The collection is organized into one series - **Series I: Scrapbook**

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

Ellis Wright was a first cousin of Wilbur and Orville Wright. His parents were William (younger brother of Bishop Milton Wright) and Lucinda Wright. Ellis Wright was born April 5, 1866, in Indiana. He was a farmer and later a builder and carpenter. He moved his family to St. Petersburg, Florida sometime in the 1920's. He was 84 years old when he attended the ceremonies marking the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wrights' first flight at Kitty Hawk. He died September 19, 1961. The Ellis Wright First Flight Anniversary Scrapbook was compiled/created by Mary and Wilbur Reeder. The scrapbook contains the following dedication:

"This book is dedicated to Ellis Wright (Grandfather Wright) in loving memory of the days he spent with us during which time he attended for the first time on Dec. 17, 1949 the 46th anniversary of the Wright Bros., a first cousin with whom he grew up. Mary and Wilbur Reeder." Wilbur Reeder was the Chief Aerologist at the Coast Guard Air Station at Elizabeth City, North Carolina at the time of Ellis Wright's visit in 1949.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Series I, Scrapbook consists of one scrapbook containing mainly newspaper clippings chronicling Ellis Wright's visit to Kitty Hawk to participate in the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of flight events at the Kitty Hawk Post Office, Wright Memorial, and at the Hotel Carolinian. The news articles contain interviews with Ellis Wright and photographs of various events he attended. The scrapbook also contains news clippings of the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of flight in 1951 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of flight at Kitty Hawk in 1953. There are three original black and white photos in the album: one of Ellis Wright taken in Elizabeth City, N.C. in December, 1949, most likely at the home of Wilbur and Mary Reeder; and two exterior shots of Hawthorn Hill, probably sent to him by Orville Wright. The album also contains programs, menus, and numerous first day of issue Wright Brothers stamps on envelopes. There is one letter from Jack Williams to Wilbur Reeder, dated February, 1963. The letter describes his attendance at the presentation of the 1903 Flyer to the Smithsonian. The scrapbook also contains three publications: one of which is *Collier's* magazine dated December 25, 1949. The cover is a side portrait of Wilbur and Orville Wright and the feature story is "The Story of American Aviation." The second publication is the *Tarheel Postmaster*, November and December, 1949. These contain articles on Ellis Wright's visit and also First Day Covers of Wright Brothers stamps. The third publication is the March, 1953 issue of *Hiller Copter-News* published by the Manufacturers of Hiller Helicopters. It contains an article on Frank Coffyn who was one of the Wright Brothers' exhibition pilots.

## Subject Terms

### Persons/Families

Wright, Ellis, 1866-1961  
Reeder, Wilbur, 1917-1993  
Reeder, Mary Johnson Hollowell, 1911- unknown  
Wright family

### Places

Elizabeth City (N.C.) – History – 20<sup>th</sup> century

### Subjects (General)

Aeronautics – History  
Aeronautics – Flights

### Material Types

Scrapbook  
Correspondence  
Photographs  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Publications (documents)

## Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Series I: Scrapbook</b>			<b>1949-1953</b>
1	1	Scrapbook	1949-1953
1	2	Programs, brochures, correspondence (loose from album-item list follows):	
		Kill Devil Hill, National Memorial, North Carolina, brochure (2), 1949	1949
		Program, First Day of Issue of the Wright Brothers Stamp	December 17, 1949
		The Tarheel Postmaster	November, 1949
		The Tarheel Postmaster	December, 1949
		48 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance man's first successful powered flight by Orville and Wilbur Wright, program	December 17, 1951
		Hiller Copter-News	March, 1953
		Jack Williams to Mary and Wilbur Reeder, letter	February 20, 1963
		St. Petersburg - Photograph	1907

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>File</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
1	3	Newspaper clippings, loose from album	1934-1970
1	4	Collier's Magazine	December 25, 1948