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 45th 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:
Copyright restrictions 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 Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright.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 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 46th 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 46th 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 48th anniversary of flight in 1951 and the 50th 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 – 20th century

Subjects (General)

Aeronautics – History
Aeronautics – Flights

Material Types

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

Collection Inventory

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>The Tarheel Postmaster</td>
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<td>48th Anniversary Observance man’s first successful powered flight by Orville and Wilbur Wright, program</td>
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