

SC-152 F. Gillum Cromer Photographs, Wright Brothers, Huffman Prairie, Dayton, OH, 1910

(31 items)

The collection consists of an envelope entitled “Miami Valley Chautauqua, A Vacation Worth While, July 16 to August 1, 1910,” along with 4 original negatives, and 8 original 2 ½” x 4” prints of a Wright Model A Flyer in flight at Huffman Prairie in early 1910. When accessioned, the photographs and negatives were housed in the envelope. Printed on the outside of the envelope are photographs of the Miami Valley Chautauqua camp.

In May 1910, the Wright Brothers established the Wright Company School of Aviation at Huffman Prairie. It was also during this period that the Wrights began training pilots for the Wright Company Exhibition Team at Huffman Prairie. The photographs likely document this training. The 8 original photographs show a Wright Model A Flyer in flight and a second Flyer sitting on the ground. The photographs are virtually all the same. Of the four negatives, three provide a side view of a Wright Model A Flyer in a low flight over Huffman Prairie with possibly one of the Wright Brothers observing. The fourth negative shows a Wright Model A Flyer taking off from the launch rail.

Researchers will note that the negatives do not match any of the original prints. Small prints (2 ½” x 4 ½”) were made of the negatives and are included in the collection. Also included in the collection are 5” x 7” prints made from digital scans of all photographs in the collection. The disk is included in the collection.

F. Gillum Cromer was the President and General Manager of the Miami Valley Chautauqua. The Miami Valley Chautauqua was located at Chautauqua, Ohio on the banks of the Great Miami River, a few miles south of Miamisburg. The Miami Valley Chautauqua was a center of summer culture and enlightenment. The camp consisted of an auditorium, two large dining halls, a hotel, grocery, offices, ice house, and many private cottages, along with swimming and other recreation facilities. Attendees also camped in tents on the grounds. It was a place where people could go for a summer vacation, live in cottages or tents, and enjoy an educational program every day.

The photographs were donated to Wright State University Special Collections and Archives by Michael A. Burger on November 26, 2003.

Item List

1. “Miami Valley Chautauqua” envelope.

Original Photographs (2 ½” x 4”)

2. Close-up left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight.
3. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight.
4. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight

SC-152 F. Gillum Cromer Photographs, Wright Brothers, Huffman Prairie, Dayton, OH, 1910 Cont....

5. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight.
6. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight.
7. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight.
8. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight.
9. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight

Original Negatives

10. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer in low flight. (Negative #1)
11. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer taking off (Negative #2)
12. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer in low flight (Negative #3)
13. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer in low flight (Negative #4)

Prints of Original Negatives

14. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer in low flight. (Negative #1)
15. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer taking off. (Negative #2)
16. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer in low flight.(Negative #3)
17. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer in low flight. (Negative #4)

Prints of Digital Scans (5" x 7")

18. "Miami Valley Chautauqua" envelope
19. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer in low flight. (Negative #1)
20. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer taking off. (Negative #2)
21. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer in low flight. (Negative #3)
22. Side view of Wright Model A Flyer in low flight. (Negative #4)
23. Close-up left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight
24. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight
25. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight
26. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight
27. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight
28. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight
29. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight
30. Left front view of Wright Model A Flyer in flight

Digital Scans

31. CD containing all images. Dated Dec. 2003