AVIATION ACTIVITY BOOK

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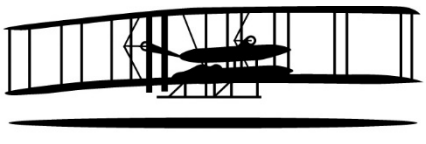

WRIGHT STATE
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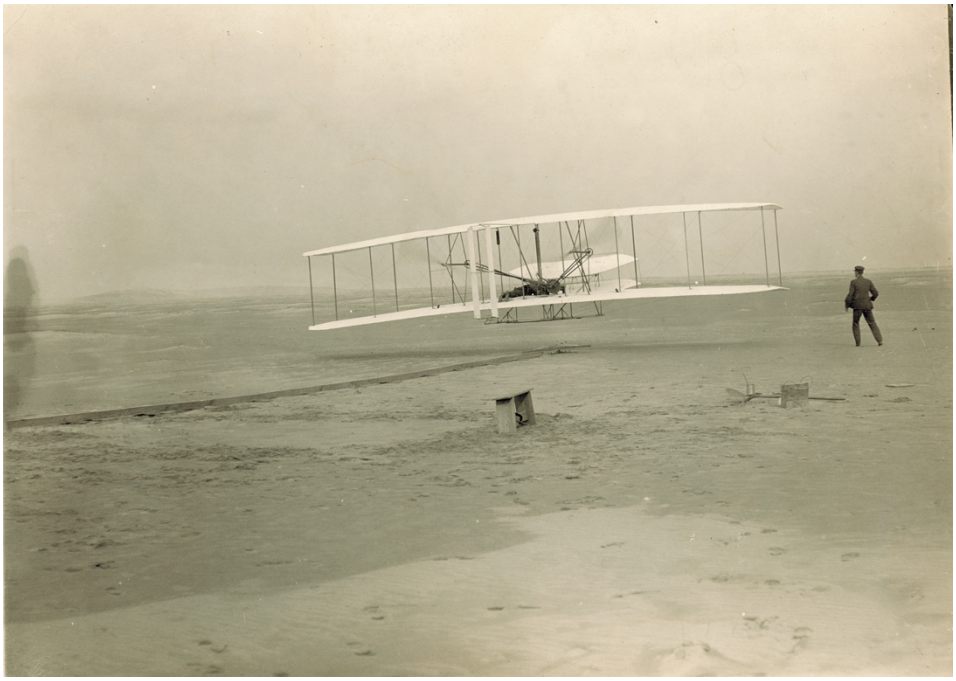


The First Flight (ms1_16_2_10)

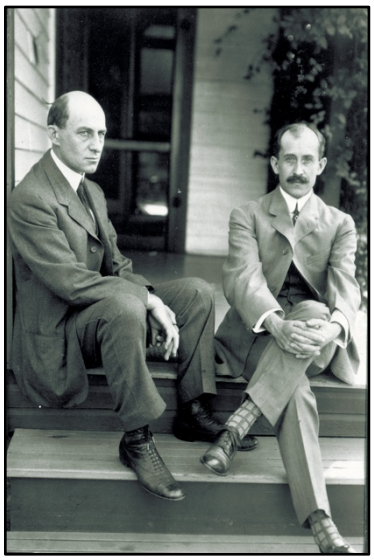
On December 17, 1903, at 10:35am, the Wright Brothers changed the world by successfully flying the first powered heavier-than-air machine at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Orville, the younger brother, was the airplane pilot, while older brother, Wilbur, ran alongside.

In his diary, Bishop Milton Wright, father of Wilbur and Orville, wrote:

Thursday, December 17 In the afternoon about 5:30 we received the following telegram from Orville, dated Kitty Hawk, N.C., Dec. 17. "Bishop M. Wright: "Success four flights Thursday morning all against a twenty-one mile wind started from level with engine power alone average speed through the air thirty one miles—longest 57 seconds. XXX home Christmas. Orville Wright."

Aviators of the Miami Valley

Wilbur (1867-1912) & Orville (1871-1948) Wright



Wilbur was born April 16, 1867, on a farm near Millville, Indiana, while Orville was born in Dayton, Ohio, on August 19, 1871. Their interest in flying started as children with a toy helicopter brought home by their father. The Brothers operated a printing business and later built and repaired bicycles. By 1900, the Wrights were testing their gliders on the sand dunes of Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Kitty Hawk was selected due to the high winds, soft sand, and remoteness. In December 1903, Wilbur and Orville were ready to give their flying machine a try.

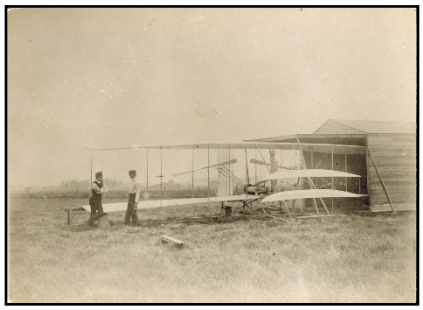
Did you know the Wrights actually made four flights on December 17, with Wilbur making the longest flight of the day covering 852 feet in 59 seconds? Wilbur landed hard after the fourth flight damaging the front of the 1903 Wright Flyer. While they were deciding what to do, a gust of wind blew the airplane over, destroying it. The first airplane never flew again.

Orville Wright and Dan Tate launch the Wright 1902 glider, with Wilbur piloting, off the east slope of Big Kill Devil Hill, October 17, 1902.

Katharine Wright Haskell
(1874-1929)

Katharine was the youngest of the Wright children and shared the same birthday, August 19, as Orville, who was three years older. She attended Central High School and graduated from Oberlin College in 1898. Katharine taught Latin and English at Dayton's Steele High School. In September 1908, she left teaching to help Orville recover from injuries suffered in an airplane crash. She helped the Brothers with their business and often traveled with them. Katharine was involved in the Women's Suffrage Movement and served in many Dayton civic organizations. She married Harry Haskell, a friend from Oberlin College, in 1926.

Huffman Prairie



Huffman Prairie is a 100-acre field located near Dayton, Ohio, first used by Wilbur and Orville in 1904-1905 to develop the first practical airplane. The Prairie was also known as Simms Station due to the nearby railway stop. The Brothers received permission to use the field from the owner, Torrance Huffman, with the understanding they would move his cows and horses out of the way before flying. In 1904, the Brothers, in the Wright Flyer II, made 105 flights totaling 49 minutes in the air, including the first turn and first circle of the field. The Brothers returned in 1905 with the Wright Flyer III that could bank, circle, and complete figure-eights. Wilbur set a world record for the longest flight by covering 24 miles (29 times around the Field) in 39 minutes and 23 seconds.

Wilbur and Orville returned to the Prairie in 1910 to establish the Wright School of Aviation and use it as home for their new exhibition flying team.

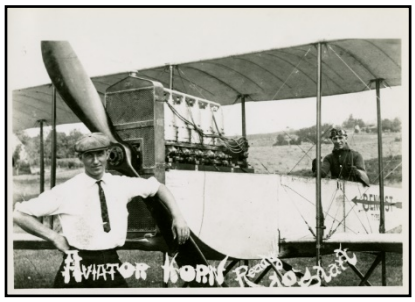
There were also several Wright family firsts at Huffman Prairie. On May 25, 1910, their father Bishop Milton Wright flew for the first time and it was the only time Wilbur and Orville ever flew together (Orville was the pilot). Today the field is part of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Charles E. Taylor
(1868-1956)

Charles Edward Taylor, the Wright Brothers "Mechanician," was born May 24, 1868, in Decatur, Illinois, and moved to Dayton in 1896. He became friends with Wilbur and Orville Wright and in 1901 they offered Taylor a job in their bicycle shop making repairs.

In 1903, the Wrights needed an engine for their plane and Charles was asked to build one. He created a working engine in six weeks, using drawings provided by the Wrights. This engine was used to power the Wright Brothers' historic flights at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in December 1903. Taylor continued to work for the Wrights for a number of years, but left in 1911 to work with a different pilot. He remained in close contact with Orville Wright until Orville's death in 1948.

Milton & Edward Korn



In 1908, brothers Edward (1888-1980) and Milton (1889-1913) Korn of Jackson Center, Shelby County, Ohio, became interested in flying machines. They used the family farm to start the first airport in Ohio and it operated until 1958. They also started building airplanes in 1909-1910. The fourth plane they built was also the first plane to carry air mail in the state of Illinois, and is now on display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Sadly, Milton was killed in the only crash at the Korn Airport on August 13, 1913. Today the farm and airport property are still owned by Korn family descendants.

WACO Aircraft Company
(1920-1946)

The WACO Aircraft Company of Troy, Ohio, was the top aircraft maker of civilian aircraft in the U.S. from 1928 to 1935. Beginning in 1921 as the Weaver Aircraft Company of Lorain, Ohio, they moved to Troy in 1924 and became the Advance Aircraft Company but kept the WACO logo. In 1929, the name was changed to the WACO Aircraft Company.

WACO produced over 80 aircraft types between 1919 and 1946, including the large troop-carrying gliders used in all of the World War II major invasions. WACOs were also popular around the world and sold to 37 different countries. Today the WACO Historical Society preserves the legacy of the company and aircraft.

Neil A. Armstrong
(1930-2012)

Neil Alden Armstrong was born August 5, 1930, in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He took his first plane ride at age six and earned his pilot license on his 16th birthday. Neil served as a naval aviator in 1949-1952, flying 78 combat missions during the Korean War. After graduating from Purdue University in 1955 with a degree in aeronautical engineering, Neil joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as a research pilot. In September 1962, he was selected as the first civilian astronaut. He served as pilot for the Gemini 8 mission in 1966 and commander of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon in July 1969.

On July 20, 1969, Neil became the first man to walk on the moon and as he stepped to the moon surface he said the famous phrase “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” He was joined on the moon walk by Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr., while Michael Collins orbited above in the command module.

Bob and Patty Wagner

Bob and Patty Wagner, both accomplished pilots, are legends in the aviation world for their wing walking act *A Girl on the Wing*. Bob piloted the plane, while Patty was the wing walker. The couple met when Patty was taking lessons at the South Dayton Airport (now the Moraine Airpark). During their 30-year air show career, the Wagners have performed in 47 states, Canada, and South America. They participated in the first Dayton Air Show, then known as the Air Fair, in June 1975. Today the couple lives near West Milton, where they own an airstrip known as the Wagner International Airport. Their love and experience in aviation has never stopped. Bob received the FAA Master Pilot Award in 2019, while Patty was inducted into the Women in Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame in March 2020.

Col. Nancy J. Currie-Gregg

Nancy J. Currie-Gregg was born in Wilmington, Delaware, and grew up in Troy, Ohio, which she considers her home. She graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in biology and a master's degree in engineering from the University of Southern California. She was a pilot for the United States Army until being assigned to NASA in 1987. She was made an astronaut in 1990 working on robotic parts of space missions. She flew four Shuttle missions from 1993-2002, spending a total of 41 days and 15 hours in space. Nancy is now an advisor to NASA and teaches at Texas A&M University.

Neal V. Loving
(1916-1998)

Neal was a pilot of airplanes and gliders, aircraft designer, aeronautical engineer, author, motivational speaker, and pioneer. Born in Detroit, Michigan, he developed an early love for aviation making his first solo flight in 1939. While flying a routine glider mission for the Civil Air Patrol in 1944, Neal was involved in a crash and lost both legs below the knee. This did not stop him from flying and within two years he was back in the cockpit. In 1950, he finished building the midget racer named *Loving's Love*, which he flew all over North America and the Caribbean. Neil was also the African-American double-amputee racing pilot in the United States. Neil decided to study aeronautical engineering at Wayne State University. Upon graduation in 1961 he accepted a position with Wright Patterson Air Force Base and moved to Dayton. The Smithsonian Press published his book *Loving's Love: A Black American's Experience in Aviation* in 1994. He was inducted into the Dayton Walk of Fame in 2003 and his plane, *Loving's Love*, is on permanent display at the Oshkosh Aviation Museum.

Marjorie Stinson
(1896-1975)

Marjorie Stinson came from a family of aviators and was the ninth, and youngest, woman to receive a pilot's license. In 1912, her sister Katherine (1891-1977) became the fourth woman to earn a pilot's license. Marjorie traveled to Dayton, Ohio, to take flying lessons at the Wright School of Aviation at Huffman Prairie. Marjorie completed her flight training on August 12, 1914, and went on to serve as an airmail carrier, flight instructor, and exhibition pilot. In 1915, She and her family established the Stinson School of Flying in San Antonio, Texas. The school now operates as Stinson Municipal Airport.

Wright School of Aviation

On May 5, 1910, The Wright School of Aviation was started at Huffman Prairie Flying Field in Dayton, Ohio, by Wilbur and Orville Wright. Orville served as the primary flight instructor. Earlier in the year the Brothers had opened the very first civilian flying school in Montgomery, Alabama. The Alabama site was selected because of warmer weather and mild winters allowing for early spring training. Another school was later opened in Augusta, Georgia. The school operated from 1910-1916 and trained over 100 pilots.

The Wright School of Aviation trained both civilian and military pilots, including Canadians that hoped to serve with the Royal Naval Air Service. Some of the civilian pilots joined the Wright Company exhibition team that performed around the United States, including at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Student pilots with a Wright Model B Flyer at Huffman Prairie in 1914

Miami Valley Aviation Word Search

A	I	R	P	L	A	N	E	R	O	W	D	F	G	F	S
N	F	H	M	E	D	W	M	E	U	A	V	Q	U	E	O
T	S	A	B	P	I	H	S	D	W	C	E	M	Y	D	C
Q	G	W	R	I	G	H	T	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S
W	U	T	I	W	L	I	G	H	T	G	E	I	P	I	F
M	X	H	G	I	R	D	R	E	H	R	V	F	G	V	Q
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Z	B	N	O	E	W	K	L	I	F	V	H	E	G	H	L
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M	C	C	O	O	K	F	I	E	L	D	R	L	Y	S	R
A	V	I	L	R	E	I	N	A	F	I	Q	B	E	N	Q
C	O	R	V	I	L	L	E	B	A	T	E	N	N	E	S
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P	E	K	E	Q	A	I	R	W	I	Y	S	Y	I	Q	R
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V	U	E	E	Y	M	E	V	Q	F	W	P	A	F	B	D
H	E	S	T	I	N	S	O	N	F	E	L	R	B	D	Y

Airplane
Armstrong
Currie
Flyer
Hawthorn
Huffman Prairie
Korn
McCook Field
Orville
Stinson
Taylor
WACO
Wilbur
WPAFB
Wilbur

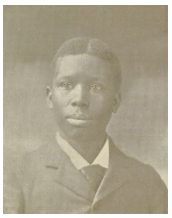
Wright Match Game

Match the person or place to the description

Orville Wright

Wilbur Wright

Katharine Wright



Paul Laurence Dunbar

Huffman Prairie

Graduated from Oberlin College

Famous Dayton Poet that attended Central High School with Orville

Where the Wright Brothers flew in Dayton

Brother who flew the first successful powered flight

Won the Michelin Trophy in 1908 for the longest flight of the year

Wright Family Facts

Bishop Milton Wright (1828-1917)
The father of the Wright Brothers wrote about his life and family in a daily diary for over 60 years.

Susan K. Wright (1831-1889)
Mother of the Wright Brothers who met Milton Wright at Hartsville College, where she studied literature.

Reuchlin Wright (1861-1920)
Oldest brother who lived on an 80-acre cattle and corn farm in Kansas.

Lorin Wright (1862-1939)
Owned Miami Wood Specialties which made wooden toys, including toy airplanes.

Wilbur Wright (1867-1912)
Before inventing the airplane, Wilbur and his brother ran a printing company and a bicycle shop.

Orville Wright (1871-1948)
Attended Central High School with Paul Laurence Dunbar, world-renowned poet and author.

Katharine Wright (1874-1929)
Supported women's right to vote and served as a director of the Young Woman's League of Dayton.

WRIGHT FAMILY WORD SEARCH

W	E	I	D	G	C	V	K	H	S	C	I	P	I	O	B
E	I	X	O	I	R	P	I	A	C	U	Q	A	S	R	E
N	N	L	T	N	M	W	T	W	O	R	L	R	X	V	A
R	B	S	B	L	I	C	T	L	H	E	W	D	Z	I	S
Y	A	V	P	E	Y	P	Y	V	A	H	N	N	L	L	S
T	W	N	M	D	R	E	H	A	W	Q	E	E	Y	L	K
Q	R	P	N	A	E	Q	A	V	T	A	D	G	N	E	L
K	C	Z	O	S	U	F	W	Z	H	D	F	B	Z	D	J
A	X	R	E	E	C	W	K	P	O	M	Y	I	N	Q	N
T	A	C	T	M	H	R	D	R	R	E	M	C	B	W	D
H	T	E	Y	S	L	O	R	I	N	H	L	Y	O	R	A
A	L	N	R	D	I	J	Q	D	H	G	E	C	K	T	Y
R	W	T	E	N	N	S	B	W	I	F	W	L	T	I	T
I	H	R	O	W	S	H	W	E	L	R	Q	E	K	B	O
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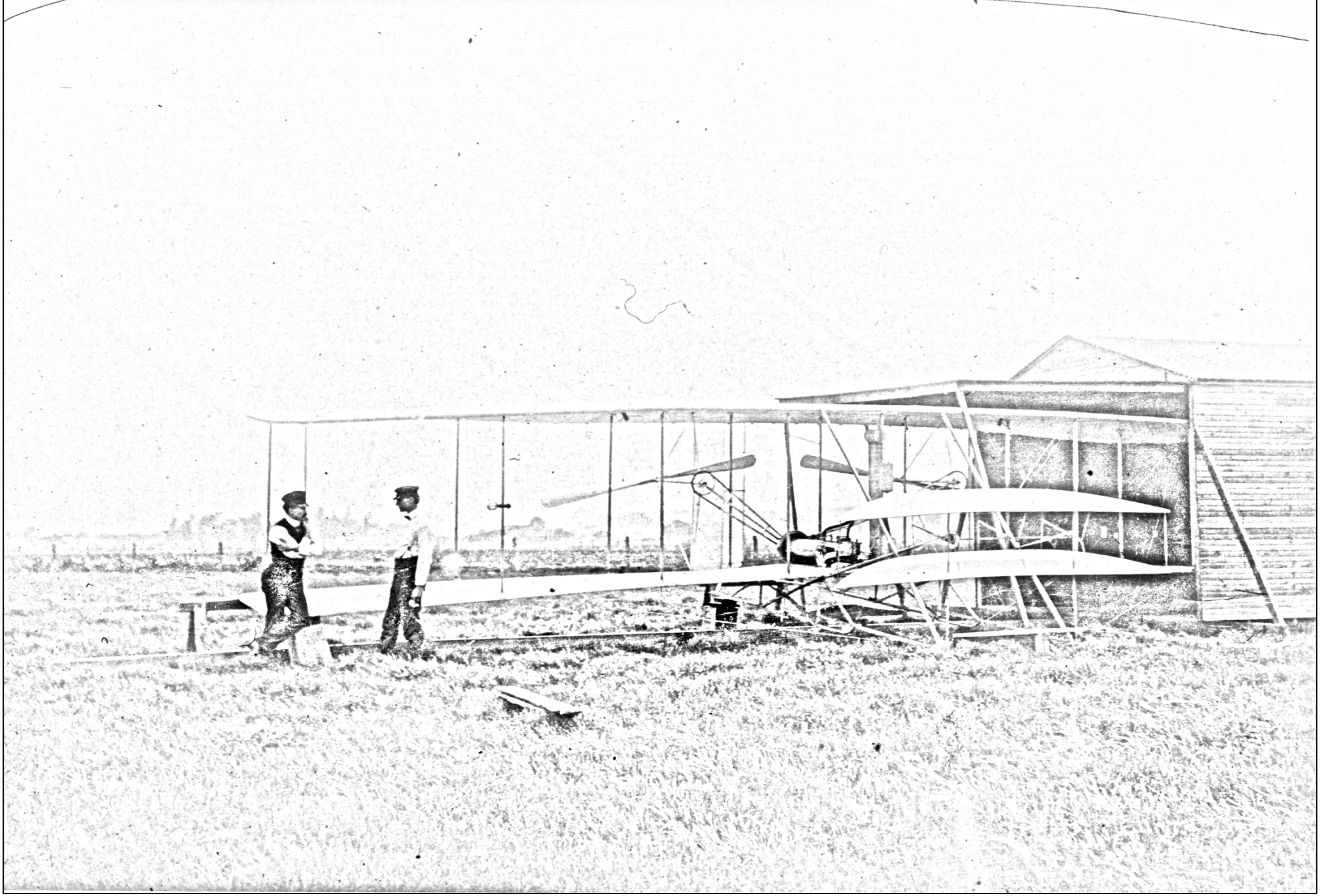
O	G	T	M	I	L	T	O	N	S	D	B	E	Q	W	R

Bicycle
Central High
Dayton
Flyer
Hawthorn Hill
Katharine
Kitty Hawk
Lorin
Milton
Orville
Printing
Reuchlin
Scipio
Susan
Wilbur



Coloring Page
Orville and Wilbur at Huffman Prairie in 1904.

Draw Your Own Airplane

Create your own design or draw your favorite plane