



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Experience the Birthplace of Aviation!

A non-profit corporation in partnership with the National Park Service to promote Aviation Heritage in the Dayton region

Visit the historical sites that tell of man's conquest of the air.

News and Updates from "The Trail"

"The Flight Log" -

AVIATION TRAIL MAIL

PRINT VERSION: this file is a print version of the e-mail newsletter that is sent out on a free subscription basis. To get on the e-mail subscription list go to the Aviation Trail website at www.aviationtrailinc.org and subscribe by using the "Subscribe Now" button on the footer of each page. This version is more suited for printing hard copies than the e-mail version and is available on the Aviation Trail website "Newsletters and Brochures" page: <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/newsletters>.



Above: Aviation Trail Visitor Center • Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center • Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
Corner of W. Third & S. Williams Sts., • 16 S. Williams St., Dayton, OH 45402 • (937) 225-7705

Print Version

February 2019 ISSUE

02/22/2019

This "Flight Log" highlights some of the stories and events featured on the Aviation Trail website: AviationTrailInc.org

Tavern Dinner End of Winter Feast

**Tavern Dinners At Carillon Historical Park
Site #4 on the Aviation Trail**

March 8, March 9, March 15, March 22

Say goodbye to colder temperatures with Carillon Historical Park's Tavern Dinner End of Winter Feast — featuring an authentic hearth-cooked meal and historical entertainment in Newcom Tavern.



Held in October & November (Harvest Feast) and March (End of Winter Feast), Carillon Historical Park's tavern dinner series features an authentic, three-course, hearth-cooked meal and historical entertainment in Newcom Tavern (Est. 1796)—Dayton's oldest building. Newcom Tavern was also the city's first jail, church, general store, and Montgomery County's first courthouse.

With recipes pulled from 19th century receipt books, guests learn how Daytonians dined in the 1800s. Costumed interpreters bring 19th-century Dayton to life during this unique candlelit dinner.
\$50 per Non-Member | \$45 per Dayton History Member



Limited space available.
Call 937-293-2841 ext. 127 or e-mail education1@daytonhistory.org to make a reservation today! Private Tavern Dinners available. Contact us for more information.

<https://www.daytonhistory.org/events/historical-experiences/tavern-dinners/>

February Aviation Trail Site Feature

Site #8, Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum is featured this month.

This cold February is a good time to think of the outlook for the coming Spring. Plan to visit some of the outdoor Aviation Trail sites this Spring and enjoy the scenery.



One of the gems on the trail is Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum with its fabulous natural terrain that can be enjoyed while viewing the grave sites of the Wright's, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and many other luminaries.



Besides Wright family members, there are several other aviation and aviation related names that appear on headstones at Woodland, such as Arnold Wehrley who served with the Aero Squadron Service and died on October 9, 1918. Also army test pilot 1st Lt. Frank Stuart Patterson, who died in a plane crash at Wright Field in 1918. Patterson Field (now Wright Patterson AFB) was named after him. Also buried at Woodland is Georgianna Harshman who owned the property that is now WPAFB. (She sold it to the Federal Government and it was originally called Wright Field). Frederick August Requarth is another aviation related name at woodland. He founded the F.A. Requarth lumber company which supplied lumber for the Wright Brothers' aircraft.

These are just some of the historic figures that are resting among Woodland's picturesque hills. You can find out more on interesting tours that are offered, with different themes and stories. See the Woodland website for information: <http://www.woodlandcemetery.org/tours-and-events>

February in Aviation History

On February 5, 1918, Lt. Stephen Thompson became the first member of the United States military to shoot down an enemy aircraft.

Stephen W. Thompson (March 20, 1894 – October 9, 1977) was assigned to the United States 1st Aero Squadron in France for training as an observer. On February 5, 1918 he was invited to fly as a gunner-bombardier with the nearby French bombardment squadron Br. 123 in a Brequet 14 B2 bomber in a raid over Germany. During the raid Lt. Thompson shot down an enemy Albatros D. III fighter. Although there was a previous aerial victory by an American who was serving with the French Lafayette Escadrille, this was the first aerial victory by a member of the U.S. military. Because of Thompson's unique status on this mission, he was not granted credit for his victory during the war. However, with the assistance of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, he was finally granted official recognition for the victory in 1967.

He was later assigned to the new 12th Aero Squadron at Ourches airdrome, and on July 28 he was in another memorable battle. While doing artillery spotting during a battle near Château-Thierry, his Salmson 2 A2 was attacked by four Fokker D.VIIs from what had been Richthofen's Flying Circus but was then under the command of Hermann Göring. Thompson shot down the first two planes that attacked him, but a bullet from the third hit his machine gun and disabled it. He was then hit in the leg, and his pilot was hit in the stomach by an exploding bullet. The pilot managed to crash land the plane before he died of his wounds. Thompson dug the bullet out of his leg with a pocket knife. The pilot who shot them down was the famous German ace Erich Löwenhardt, who at the time was second only to Richthofen in victories.



The uniform that Thompson was wearing when he shot down the Albatros D.III and the bullet he dug from his leg are on display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/197430/USAFmuseum/> During WW I he was awarded the Croix de guerre with Palm, and a Purple Heart.

Lt. Thompson's Dayton connection:

After the war Thompson worked for several years as an engineer in Dayton, Ohio at McCook Field, the predecessor of today's Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He then became a high school mathematics teacher. During World War II he taught preflight and meteorology. He maintained an interest in aviation and in 1940 he received U.S. Patent No. 2,210,642 for a tailless flying wing. He died in Dayton, Ohio at age 83.

Mystery Canopy at the Parachute Museum

Museum Artifact Discovered to be from Cold War Satellite Surveillance Program

On occasion as we examined our parachute museum objects in storage we discovered a particular parachute canopy that is curiously drawn up tight and bunched in its storage container. So we asked ourselves why would we have a canopy that is not properly folded and stored diligently for preservation purposes (like it should be) in our collection system? On investigation what we have found out is that this bunched up canopy came from a secret program of the CIA Directorate of Science & Technology as a recovery parachute from a secret spy satellite from the program Corona used for photographic surveillance of the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic on China and other areas beginning in June 1959 and ending in May 1972. The parachute is bunched up and drawn tight because it was SNATCHED out of the air in flight as it descended by an aircraft for recovery of the top secret surveillance photography film. This back story is fascinating and you can get much more of it at Wikipedia at this link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corona_\(satellite\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corona_(satellite))

Randy Zuercher, Curator, Aviation Trail Parachute Museum



Dayton Region Walk of Fame

STORIES FROM THE DAYTON REGION WALK OF FAME
Highlighting Past Recipients with Contributions to Aviation and Aviation Technology



INDUCTED IN 2015 - GERALD S. SHARKEY

The Dayton Region's Walk of Fame, managed by Wright Dunbar, inc., is a series of granite pavers installed in the sidewalks in the historic Wright-Dunbar Business District, along the perimeters of the Aviation Trail Visitor Center and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. The Walk of Fame honors individuals or groups from the Dayton region for outstanding contributions in various endeavors and disciplines. This Aviation Trail Aviation Blog will highlight some of the recipients from past years whose contributions have involved aviation.

Gerald Sharkey (1942-2014) was one of the founding members of Aviation Trail, Inc., and president of the organization from 1985 to 1989. He was known for his strong advocacy of protecting and preserving Dayton's aviation history. He was at the forefront of the successful efforts to save some of the historic West Third Street buildings from demolition, and was instrumental in paving the way for the formation of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, which was established by legislation in 1992. His efforts also helped bring about the development of the surrounding Wright-Dunbar neighborhood.

He was inducted into the Dayton Walk of Fame in 2015. See his Walk of Fame story at <http://www.daytonwalkoffame.citymax.com/sharkey.html>

Subscribe to email version of "The Flight Log" at <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org>



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Experience the Birthplace of Aviation!

A non-profit corporation in partnership with the National Park Service to promote Aviation Heritage in the Dayton region

Visit the historical sites that tell of man's conquest of the air.

www.aviationtrailinc.org

Yes! I want to support Aviation Trail, Inc.

Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

E-mail Address (to receive online newsletter) _____

(Name to be used for recognition if different than above) _____

Membership Levels

I / We wish to remain anonymous.

_____ \$25.00 Senior (age 60+)

_____ \$75 Contributing

_____ \$1000 Patron

_____ \$30 Individual

_____ \$150 Supporting

_____ Other- I am a life member and would like to make an additional contribution

_____ \$40 Family

_____ \$1500 Individual Life Member*

(*May be paid in three annual payments of \$500 per year, mail in only)

_____ Donation - I would like to support Aviation Trail with a **DONATION** of \$ _____ to Aviation Trail

Please apply my donation to:

Membership Fund

Preservation Fund*

Wilbear Fund**

* Donations will be designated to promote and preserve historical aviation sites in the Dayton Region.

** Donations will be designated to promote and preserve the "Wilbear Wright" teddy bear program that promotes the Aviation Trail and its partner sites.

Check enclosed. Make payable to: Aviation Trail, Inc.

Mail to Aviation Trail, Inc. / PO Box 633 / Wright Brothers Station / Dayton, OH 45409

Members and donors receive an online subscription to the Aviation Trail newsletter, *Flight Log*, and advance invitations to Aviation Trail events and programs.

Online credit card payments may be made from our website at www.aviationtrailinc.org.

Select the "Memberships -Donations-Reservations button from the top menu. Secure payments are made through PayPal.

Donations to Aviation Trail, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, in partnership with the National Park Service to promote Aviation Heritage in the Dayton region, are fully tax deductible.

Aviation Trail, Inc. / PO Box 633 // Wright Brothers Branch / Dayton, OH 45409 / www.aviationtrailinc.org