

**Williams Lucky (Luckey) -
Curtiss Test Pilot Collection
2007-9-24**

Finding aid prepared by K Williams

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
February 24, 2010

1st Edition

Museum of Flight Archives
9404 East Marginal Way South
Seattle, WA
206-764-5700
Archives@museumofflight.org

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	5
<u>Arrangement note</u>	6
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Museum of Flight Archives
Creator - Other	Lucky, William S.
Title	William Lucky (Lucky) Collection
Date	Early 20th Century
Extent	1.5 Cubic feet One document box containing archival materials. Objects stored in small object collection
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

William S. Luckey was a test pilot and exhibition aviator for the Curtiss Company. Luckey was best known as the winner of the New York Times race around Manhattan Island on October 13, 1913. Until the beginning of 1912 when he took up an interest in aviation he was reported to be a manufacturer of trunks and suitcases.

Luckey was approaching 50 years old when he appeared at the Curtiss Flying School at Hammondsport, NY in 1912. After training he flew as a Curtiss test pilot. He would purchase his own Curtiss airplane and become an exhibition flyer. There are records of him flying at fairs and for National Guard encampments. His main claim to fame was his winning the race around Manhattan Island for which he received much publicity in aviation magazines and in newspapers coast to coast. He continued after the race as an exhibition pilot his aviation career ending with a fatal accident in Ontario Canada during December, 1915. It doesn't appear that he ever received a license.

Luckey Chronology (based on research done by Museum Curator Ermeitus Dennis Parks)

Born Feb 15, 1875 Jersey City, NJ Died Dec 20, 1915

1898, July 2, Enlisted in New Jersey Guard 24 years old, Draftsman Served in the Spanish America War

1907, Dec 25, Married Annie Laura Barlow in New York City

1912

1912 Luckey appeared at Curtiss camp in Hammondsport for training as an aviator was near 50 years old via Glenn Curtiss NYT Oct 19, 1913 p1

Sept 12 Wrecked at Winchester, VA

1913

June 3-13 Kingston ONT July 21 Sullivan's Island, SC (near Charleston) (Flew Hydro) July 26, Isle of Palms, Charleston, SC (Hydro and Land Plane) Sept 11,12 Flew at Walkerton Fair (South Carolina ??) Sept 13, Buffalo, NY part of Perry Centennial Celebration Sept 23, Atlantic City, Hydroaeroplane Flights Aug 10, Isle of Palms, Charleston, SC Oct 11 Fliers Turn up for Wright Meet NYT p.24 Oct 12 Sixteen Aeroplanes to Race Around New York Tomorrow NTY p3 Oct 12 Fliers Prepare for Times Race NYT p1 October Won Round Manhattan Race Oct 13 Luckey Amazed Curtiss NYT p1 Oct 18 Five Race Around Manhattan in High Wind Aero and Hydro p.27 Oct Issue of Aeronautics "Results tell the story" Front Cover – Luckey photo p.152 "Luckey Wins First Air Derby Dec Test flying for Curtiss at Hammondsport

1914

March Test Flying for Curtiss at Hammondsport July 1, Smith Falls, ONT, Canada Nov 1, Buffalo, NY flew against Motorcycle Racer

1915

Jan 13 reported to offer use of flying machine to Oklahoma National Guard

Feb 11-18, Apalachicola, FL Madri Gras Carnival July 2-3, Big Stone Gap, VA July 27-28, Peekskill, NY August 9 -15 Flying and bomb dropping at National Guard Camp of Pennsylvania at Indiana, PA Carried two officers and maybe PA Governor as passengers Aug 14, Big Stone Gap, VA Aug 18, Flew Erlanger, KY to Convington, KY on to Cincinnati, OH Sept 1 Flying at Fair in Warren, PA "Luckey Smashes Machine" Warren Evening p.1 Sept 2 Flying at Fair in Warren, PA Warren Evening Times Sept 23, 24 Contract to Fly at Renfrew Fair, Ont, Canada \$200 Dec 20 W.S. Luckey, Aviator, Dead Fatal Injuries Sept 6 Died Dec 20 Sturgeon Falls, Ontario

Scope and Contents note

1. One small leather-bound betting book
 2. One small photograph in a wood frame
 3. Film negatives (in one folder): Seven (7) 2³/₄ x 4¹/₂" negatives Three (3) 4³/₄ x 6³/₄" negatives
 4. 127 loose photographs (in three folders): Folder 1: 55 photos (smaller than 4 x 5") Folder 2: 53 photos (5 x 7" or smaller) Folder 3: 19 photos (8 x 10" or smaller)
 5. 75 photo postcards (in two folders): Folder 1: 62 aviation-related photo postcards (3 3/8 x 5 3/8") Folder 2: 13 misc. photo postcards (3 3/8 x 5 3/8" and 5 7/8 x 9 1/2")
 6. One Curtiss Aeroplanes Catalogue, 1912-1913
 7. One copy of Aeronautics Magazine, October, 1913
 8. 23 misc. documents (in one folder): marriage certificates, wedding invitations, correspondence, etc.
 9. Two folders of newspaper articles clippings (approx. 50)
 10. Promotional materials (one folder): contracts, posters, letters, etc.
 11. 84 photographs removed from photo [postcard] album
 12. One photo [postcard] album
- 1st Place Trophy for winning Times Aerial Derby on Oct 13, 1913 Medal of Merit in clamshell case referencing Aerial Derby Googles

Arrangement note

The archival collection consists of one Hollinger box of file folders organized and numbered. The 3-dimensional objects are stored in small object collection storage.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Museum of Flight Archives

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- CollVest Coins LLC.

Subject(s)

- Correspondence
- Curtiss Aircraft
- Curtiss Exhibition Team
- Flight Testing
- Negatives - Film
- Object - Goggles
- Object - Trophy
- Photographs
- Times Aerial Derby - 1913