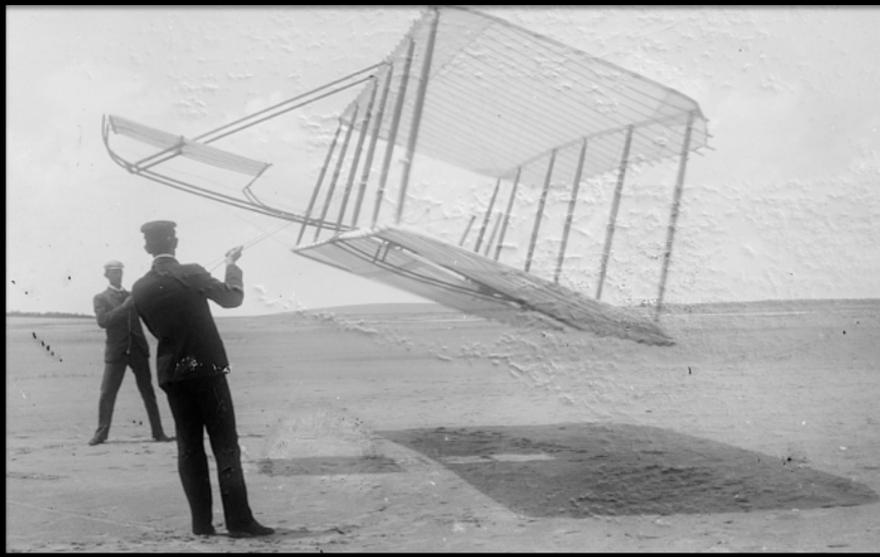
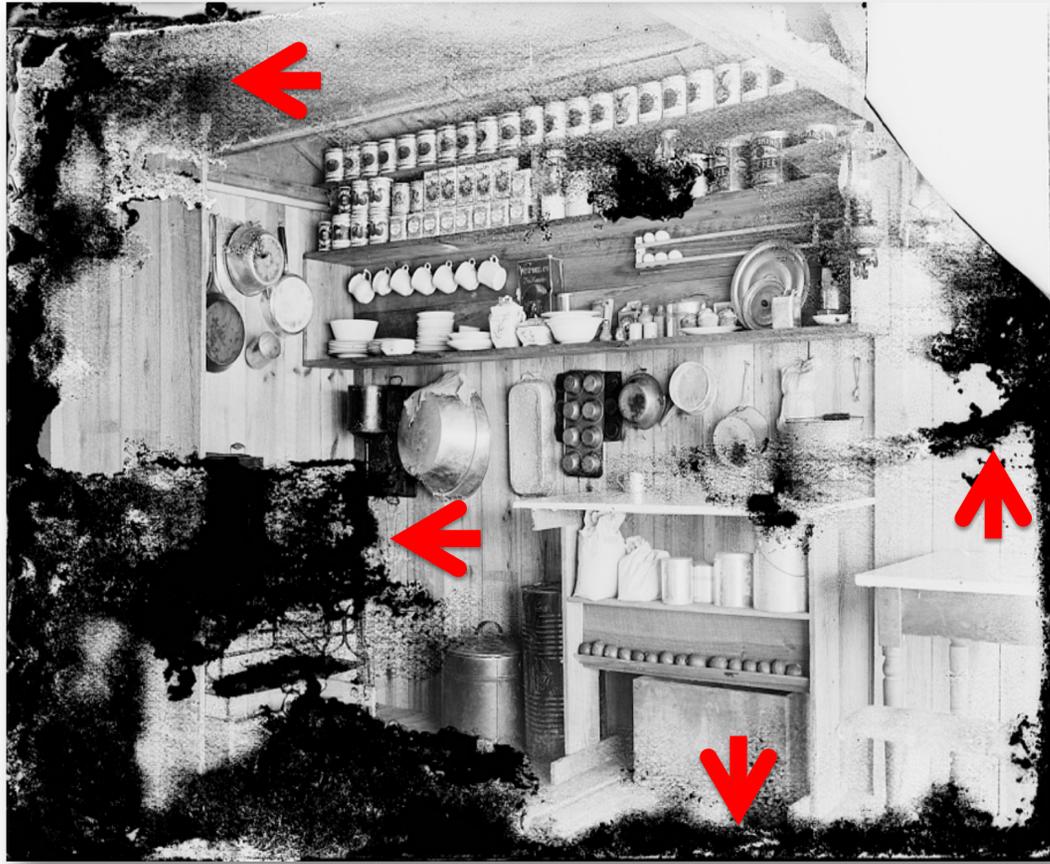


Silver Jackets Flood Fight



100 Years Since the Great Flood of 1913

Wright Brothers' artifacts from historic flight damaged by flood waters, family flees Dayton.



"The flood was second only to Noah's,"

Bishop Milton Wright, father of Orville and Wilbur and Dayton flood survivor.

With the levee failures in Dayton on the morning of March 25, 1913, Orville, his sister Katharine, and father Milton Wright were forced to leave their home. Flood waters from the Great Miami River rose into the first floor of their home and their shed where they stored the first flight Flyer.

After the successful first flight in Kitty Hawk North Carolina on December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers dismantle their Flyer and send it back to Dayton. The Flyer had been stored in a shed behind their bicycle shop for years. The Flyer was damaged from the flood waters and mud, but was restored and resides in the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum today. Many photographs in the brothers' photo collection from their days in Kitty Hawk were damaged as you can see here. The original negatives of the Wilbur and Orville Wright Collection are housed at the Library of Congress.



Orville wrote on April 11 to Andrew Freedman, chairman of the Wright Company, "It has now been two and a half weeks since I have been able to be in my office and have not yet succeeded in getting any light or heat. The water covered the first floor of my home about six feet deep, but our factory is high on the hills and far away from the water, so there was no loss there at all. My greatest anxiety was over my own office, where I keep all our aeronautical books and papers and the scientific data upon which I base all calculations. Fire broke out in our block and destroyed the nearby buildings, but for some unexplainable reason our building, which has a shingle roof, did not catch."

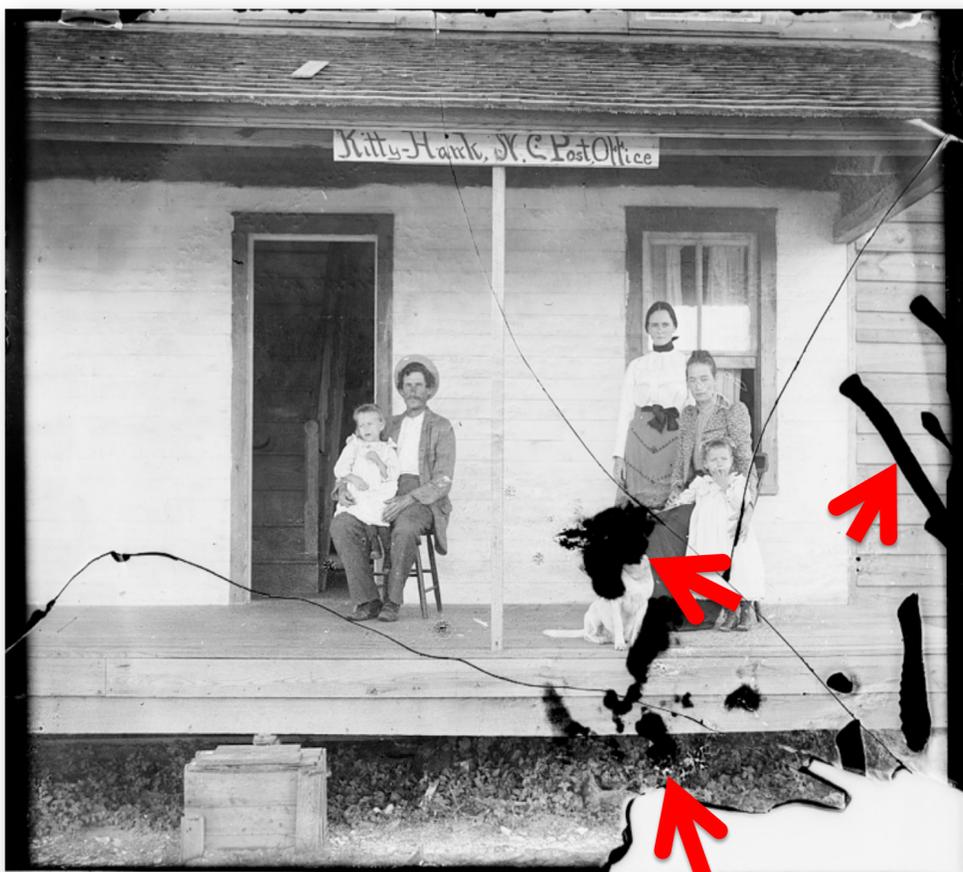


Photo Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Title Photo: Side view of glider flying as a kite near the ground, Wilbur at left and Orville at right, glider turned forward to right and tipped downward

Top Left: Kitchen of the camp building at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, with neatly arranged wall shelves holding dishes, canned foods, and other provisions

Bottom Left: Captain William J. Tate, the Wrights' first host in Kitty Hawk, and family on porch of their home, the Kitty Hawk Post Office

Middle Right: Orville and Wilbur Wrights first Flyer as displayed at the Smithsonian in 2013

Bottom Right: The Wright home at 7 Hawthorn St. in Dayton



Produced by National Weather Service Office in Cleveland for the 100th Anniversary of the Great Ohio Valley Flood.