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.”