



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives*

## **Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - McClaskey, John W.**

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 02:33:32

**The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.**

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website ([transcription.si.edu](https://transcription.si.edu)), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives or [transcribe@si.edu](mailto:transcribe@si.edu)

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

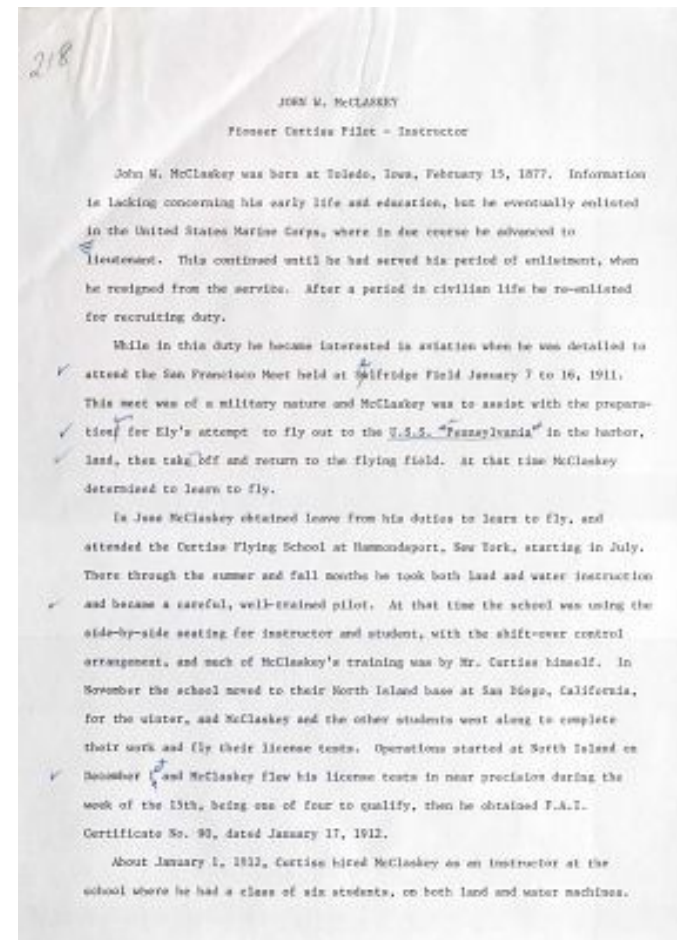
John W. McClaskey  
Pioneer Curtiss Pilot - Instructor

John W. McClaskey was born at Toledo, Iowa, February 15th, 1877. Information is lacking concerning his early life and education, but he eventually enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where in due course he advanced to Lieutenant. This continued until he had served his period of enlistment, when he retired from the Service. After a period in civilian life he re-enlisted for recruiting duty.

While in this duty he became interested in aviation when he was detailed to attend the San Francisco Meet held at Selfridge Field January 7 to 16, 1911. This meet was of a military nature and McClaskey was to assist with the preparation for Ely's attempt to fly out to the U.S.S. Pennsylvania in the harbor, land, then takeoff and return to the flying field. At that event McClaskey became determined to learn to fly.

In June McClaskey obtained a leave from the Service to learn to fly, and joined the Curtiss Flying School at Hammondsport, New York, starting in July. There through the summer and fall months he took both land and water instruction and became a careful, well-trained pilot. At that time the school was using the side-by-side seating for instructor and student, with the shift-over control arrangement, and much of McClaskey's training was by Mr. Curtiss himself. In November the school moved to their North Island base at San Diego, California, for the winter, and McClaskey and the other students went along to complete their work and fly their license tests. Operations started at North Island on December 1st and McClaskey flew his license tests in near precision during the week of the 15th, being one of four to qualify, then he obtained F.A.I. Certificate No. 90, dated January 17, 1912.

About January 1, 1912, Curtiss hired McClaskey as an instructor at the school where he had a class of six students, on both land and water machines.



Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - McClaskey, John W.  
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers  
Extracted Mar-29-2024 02:33:32



## Smithsonian Institution

*Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives*

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)