



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Thompson, Clarke

Extracted on Apr-24-2024 06:56:48

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), 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

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.

3/2 Clarke THOMPSON
Wealthy Sportsman Pilot

Clarke Thompson was born at Merion Station, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia, October 13, 1875, son of the then President of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He attended local schools, then Groton Prep School, Groton, Massachusetts. He entered Harvard University in 1895 and graduated in 1899. After leaving college he took a 3-year course at the Altoona shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad, then went into the employ of the railroad where he remained for about one year after which he resigned.

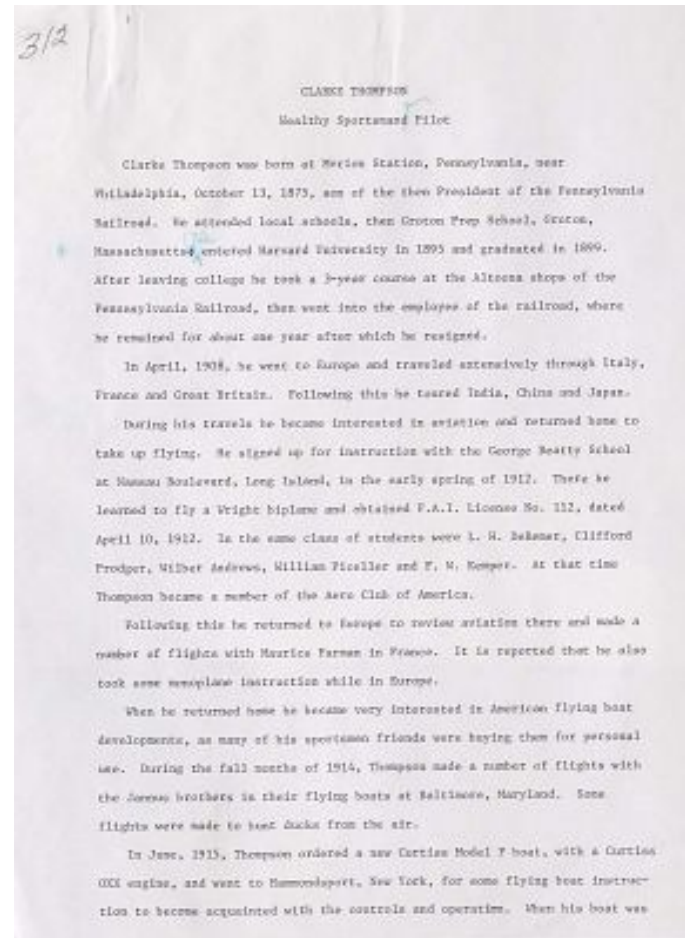
In April, 1908, he went to Europe and traveled extensively through Italy, France and Great Britain. Following this he toured India, China, and Japan.

During his travels he became interested in aviation and returned home to take up flying. He signed up for instruction with the George Beatty School at Nassau Boulevard, Long Island, in the early spring of 1912. There he learned to fly a Wright biplane and obtained F.A.I. License No. 112, dated April 10, 1912. In the same class of students were L. H. DeRemer, Clifford Prodger, Wilber Andrews, William Piceller and F.W. Kemper. At that time Thompson became a member of the Aero Club of America.

Following this he returned to Europe to review aviation there and made a number of flights with Maurice Farman in France. It is reported that he also took some monoplane instruction while in Europe.

When he returned home he became very interested in American flying boat developments, as many of his sportsmen friends were buying them for personal use. During the fall months of 1914, Thompson made a number of flights with the Jannus brothers in their flying boats at Baltimore, Maryland. Some flights were made to hunt ducks from the air.

In June, 1915, Thompson ordered a new Curtiss Model F boat, with a Curtiss OXX engine and went to Hammondsport, New York, for some flying boat instruction to become acquainted with the controls and operation. When his boat was



Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Thompson, Clarke
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-24-2024 06:56:48



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

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

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