



Smithsonian  
*National Air and Space Museum*

Archives Division

October 20, 1999

Mr. Howard G. Roth  
6729 East High Street  
Lockport, NY 14094

Dear Mr. Roth:

Recently, a letter from you was forwarded to the National Air and Space Museum's Archives Division from our Aeronautics Department. This letter concerned the life and career of your wife's relation, James Henry Joyce. Enclosed with the letter were two photographs, one featuring Mr. Joyce with compatriots and aircraft and the other a studio portrait.

The information that you sent on James Henry Joyce's interesting and inventive career will constitute an enlightening addition to our Biographical Files.

Please accept our thanks for keeping us in your thoughts. Your generosity and concern with the preservation of aviation history are much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Williams  
Acquisition Archivist

PLW/kmi

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
National Air and Space Museum Room 3100  
Washington DC 20560-0322  
202.357.3133 Telephone  
202.786.2835 Fax  
REFERENCE.DESK@NASM.SI.EDU E-mail

6729 East High Street  
Lockport, New York 14094  
(716) 433-3433  
July 12, 1999

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed are photos of James Henry Joyce and of the aircraft in which he combined two controls into one (elevator and ailerons). A brother-in-law, Carlton Lorberg, of Cape Girardeau, Mo. (since deceased) investigated and learned of his various inventions. Besides the aircraft control, were a steam plow (a son is looking for a photo of it) and various small tools. He was paid \$400.00 for his work and subsequently the control was referred to as the Joyce stick.

James Henry Joyce was born in Jackson, Mo. on January 6, 1887. He married Ruth Alfultis of Vanduser, Mo. He fathered five daughters and three sons of which six survive. He was more of a tinkerer than a supporter of a family and was eventually divorced by his wife.

James Henry Joyce died on October 22, 1978 and is buried in the Frincois Cemetery in Malvern, Arkansas.

My involvement was as follows:

During World War II, I took primary flight training in Cape Girardeau, Mo. It was there that I dated Erna Fae Joyce and became engaged. After completing my cadet training and earning my wings, I was assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. I completed by combat tour as a B-17 pilot. I returned and married my fiancée on June 23, 1945.

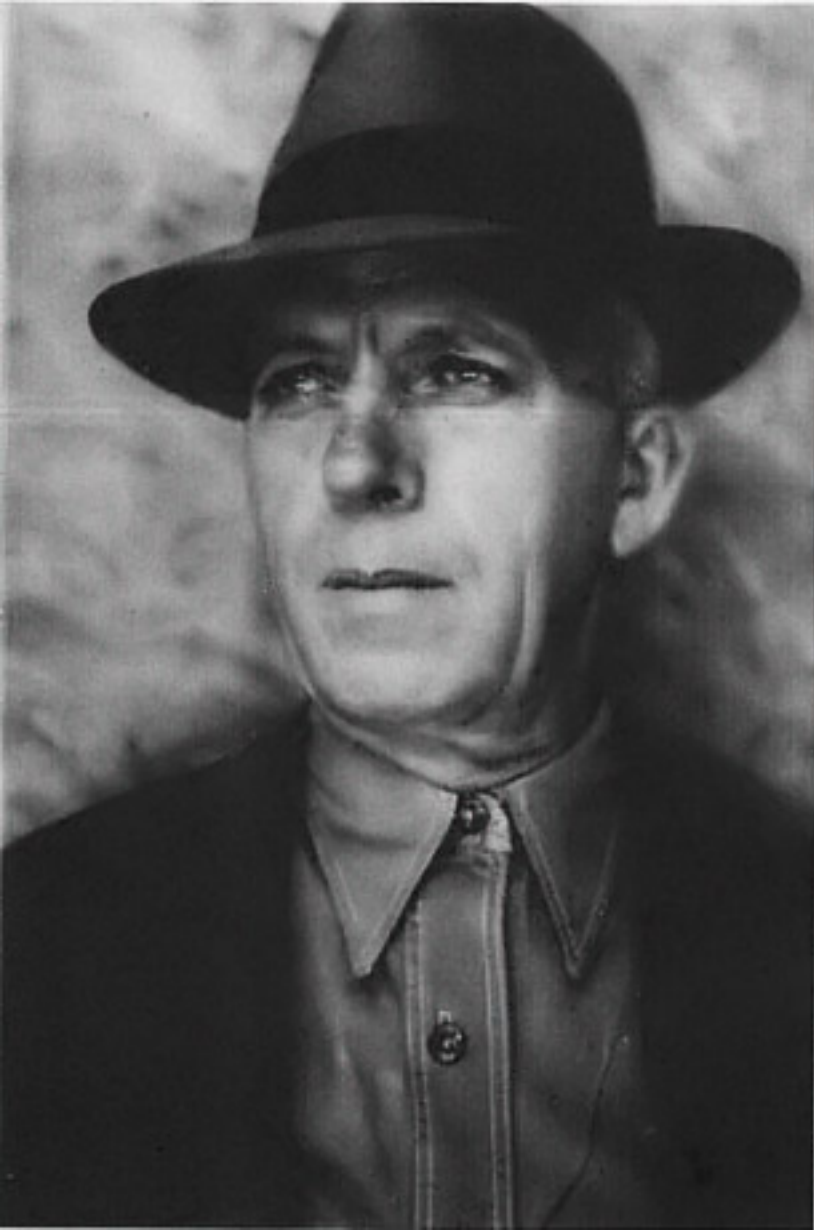
I do not request any money for photos or information given; I am only interested in giving the proper historical credit to James H. Joyce.

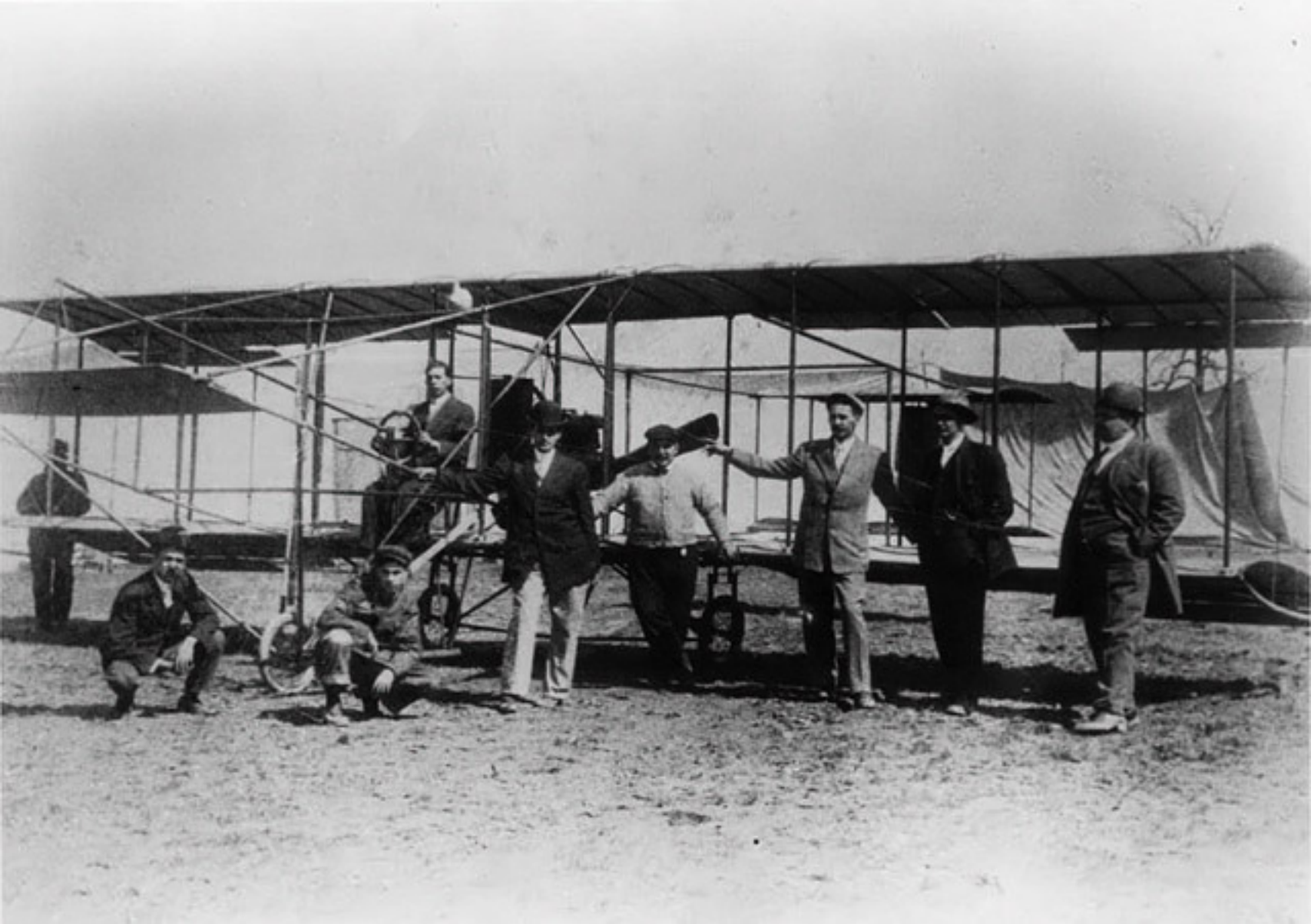
A Florida golfing buddy, who was a patent attorney, had his staff investigate and found no joystick or aircraft control patents.

If you have no interest in the foregoing, please return the photos. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Howard G. Roth







## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

1020 Lowry Street  
Columbia, Missouri 65201-7298

James W. Goodrich  
Executive Director

January 3, 2000

Howard Roth  
6729 East High Street  
New Canaan NY 14094

Dear Howard Roth

Please forgive the delay in extending our thanks for your wonderful donation of James Henry Joyce photos. In the shifting of staff and various responsibilities at the Society over the last six months, it appears this didn't get done in a timely manner. We apologize and want you to know how much we appreciate hearing about a Missouri inventor, especially when the invention became such an important part of this vital industry. We are putting together a video on Missouri in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and hope to include these photos and some information on Mr. Joyce so more people will be aware of him.

Thank you for your donation.

Sincerely,

Christine Montgomery  
Photograph Specialist



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

1020 Lowry Street  
Columbia, Missouri 65201-7298

James W. Goodrich  
Executive Director

September 30, 1999

Howard G. Roth  
6729 East High Street  
Lockport, NY 14094

Dear Mr. Roth,

In response to your letter of September 7:

Thank you very much for sending us photographs and information on James Henry Joyce and the Joyce stick. We have a file on Missouri inventors and inventions, which is a perfect place for this material

I do hope to find more on the Joyce stick and will keep an eye out for it. I will also welcome any updates or new discoveries that you make during the course of your continuing research on the man.

If you need to contact me, you may phone toll free (800) 747-6366. It was good to talk with you.

Sincerely,

Marie Concannon  
Reference Specialist

ENC.: SHS brochure  
WHMC brochure