



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Bowman Family Papers

Nathan Drake (1991); Amanda Buel (2019)

1991 and 2019

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Bowman Family Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1923-1987 (bulk 1923-1950)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.1991.0042
<b>Creator:</b>	Bowman, Les (Leslie) Bowman, Martie (Marguerite) Bowman, Larnie
<b>Extent:</b>	1.28 Cubic feet (1 records center box)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Bowman Family Papers contain 1.28 cubic feet of material related to the aviation careers of Leslie (Les), Marguerite (Martie), and Larnie Bowman.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Bowman Family Papers</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Mrs. M. Lorraine Allen, gift, 1991, NASM.1991.0042

### Processing Information

2019: Revised by Amanda Buel for DACS compliance / ArchivesSpace transfer.

1991: Original arrangement, description, and housing of the collection by Nathan Drake, Intern.

### Preferred Citation

Bowman Family Papers, Acc. NASM.1991.0042, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#) .

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## Biographical / Historical

Leslie (Les) and Marguerite (Martie) Bowman were married in October 1919 and had both learned to fly by 1925. Les, a mechanic, worked as an engineer and salesman for the Kinner Engine and Aircraft Company and was involved in both the production and testing of airplanes. Martie was a charter member of both the Ninety-Nines, a women pilots' association, and the National Air Race Association. She set women's speed records and swept three women's racing events on one day in 1938. Les and Martie both tried wing walking, as did their daughter, Larnie, at the age of eight. Larnie learned to fly by the time she was twelve. During World War II, the Bowmans ran one of five civilian schools for the training of Navy fighter pilots. Les and Martie retired from aviation after the conclusion of the war.

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## Scope and Contents

The Bowman Family Papers contain: log books, licenses, and membership cards for Marguerite, Larnie, and Leslie Bowman; loose materials including maps, newspaper clippings from the 1930s, 1972 and 1985; and miscellaneous photographs, including two of Charles Lindbergh. Three scrapbooks at the end of the collection (1923-1931, 1932-1935, 1936-1987) include photographs (some autographed), personal and business correspondence, and newspaper clippings.

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## Arrangement

The Bowman Family Papers are arranged by content type.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Flight training
- Periodicals
- Works of art

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Maps
- Photographs
- Publications
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Bowman, Larnie
- Bowman, Les (Leslie)
- Bowman, Martie (Marguerite)
- Kinner Airplane and Motor Co.
- National Air Race Association
- Ninety-Nines (Organization)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Log Books, 1928-1940s

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Pilot's Log Book, presented by Shell Oil Co. (blue) - Marguerite Lorraine Bowman, 1933-1935</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Pilot Log Book (No. 1; brown) - Martie E. Bowman, 1928-1932</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	<a href="#">Pilot's Log, presented by Mercury Flying Club (light brown) - Martie Bowman, 1932-1941</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	<a href="#">Log Books of Leslie H. Brown, 1929-1934</a> Notes: Six log books in leather log book holder.
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Leather Pouch Containing licenses and membership cards for Marguerite Ellen Bowman and Leslie Harold Bowman, 1930s-1940s</a>

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## Series 2: Loose Materials, 1925-1985

Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">National Air Race Passes, 1928-1939</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	<a href="#">Western Flying, August and November 1933</a>
Box 1, Folder 8	<a href="#">Aero Digest; 1946 Directory and Log of the National Air Races, 1933 and 1946</a>
Box 1, Folder 9	<a href="#">1935-1936 Aviation Atlas presented by Gulf Refining Company, 1935-1936</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	<a href="#">Material on National Air Tours, 1925-1930</a> Notes: Includes list of participants. This packet appears to have been sent to Mr. Bowman from a Leslie N. Forden for verifying certain information.
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Photographs and articles on Capitol Speed Lines, Inc., 1934</a>
Box 1, Folder 12	<a href="#">Newspaper Clippings, 1930s, 1972, and 1985</a>
Box 1, Folder 13	<a href="#">Advertising Booklet and Christmas Card</a>
Box 1, Folder 14	<a href="#">Photographs of glider and aircraft, circa 1935</a>
Box 1, Folder 15	<a href="#">Miscellaneous photographs</a>
Box 1, Folder 16	<a href="#">Photographs removed from scrapbook</a>

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## Series 3: Scrapbooks, 1923-1987

Box 1, Folder 17	<a href="#">Scrapbook 1, 1923-1931</a>
Box 1, Folder 18	<a href="#">Scrapbook 2, folder 1 of 3, 1932-1935</a>
Box 1, Folder 19	<a href="#">Scrapbook 2, folder 2 of 3, 1932-1935</a>
Box 1, Folder 20	<a href="#">Scrapbook 2, folder 3 of 3, 1932-1935</a>
Box 1, Folder 21	<a href="#">Scrapbook 3, 1936-1987</a>

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