



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Mary E. "Mother" Tusch Collection

Kristine L. Kaske-Martin

2006



National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
Business Number: Phone: 703-572-4045
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Mary E. "Mother" Tusch Collection
Date:	1915-1937 (bulk 1917-1924)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0128
Creator:	Tusch, Mary E. "Mother"
Extent:	5.51 Cubic feet (6 document boxes; 1 legal-size document box; 5 flat boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Mary E. "Mother" Tusch Collection reflects her interest in aviation. It consists of 12 boxes that contain photography, family documentation, news clippings and scrapbooks.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mary E. "Mother" Tusch, Gift, unknown, NASM.XXXX.0128, unknown

Processing Information

An inventory was created when this collection was originally brought to the National Air and Space Museum. A complete list of what is contained in this collection by inventory number can be found in Appendix I. A list of the personalities found in this collection is found in Appendix II. Hard copies of these appendices can be found in the accession file.

Preferred Citation

Mary E. "Mother" Tusch Collection, Acc. XXXX.0128, 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](#) .

Biographical Note

Mary E. Tusch (1875-1960) was a great supporter of aviation and pilots. She lived across the street from the United States School of Military Aeronautics on the University of California's Berkeley Campus during World War I. She invited the young aviators to her home and became like a second mother to many of them. They nicknamed her "Mother Tusch" and her house became known as The Hangar, Shrine of the Air. Tusch was actively interested in aviation as well as those people associated with aeronautics, and her home reflected her love of aviation. She avidly collected aviation material including artifacts, photographs, and autographs from the aviators. She invited many of the aviators who visited her home to sign the wallpaper.

This collection came to the National Air and Space Museum partially as a result of family ties. Mrs. Tusch's daughter, Irene, married National Air Space Museum curator, Paul E. Garber, in the early 1950s.

Scope and Contents

The Mary E. "Mother" Tusch Collection reflects her interest in aviation. It consists of 12 boxes that contain photography, family documentation, news clippings and scrapbooks. There are formal group and individual photographs as well as informal personal photographs of servicemen whom she had befriended and images signed by such famous aviators as Ruth Law and Earle Ovington. The collection contains photographs of the wallpaper from her Berkeley home which was signed by such aviation notables as Charles Lindbergh and Edward Rickenbacker. There are four scrapbooks that relate to her aviator friends and a fifth on World War I which includes photographs of trench warfare presented to "Mother" Tusch by John Pierson. This collection also contains photographs of "Mother" Tusch and her home; an inventory listing the aviation holdings of her home; guest books recording visitors to The Hangar, Shrine of the Air; and newspaper articles, museum plans, and correspondence relating to Tusch donating her collection to the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

"Mother" Tusch carried on correspondence with many of her aviator friends. One of these men, Bill Schneider, sent her a piece of what he claimed was the wreckage of Zeppelin LZ 129 "Hindenburg". The object and a photograph of Schneider and his correspondence to Tusch have been transferred to the Aeronautics Department of the National Air and Space Museum. Photocopies of these materials can be found in Box 7, Folder 3 of this collection.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by subject. These subjects include Mary E. "Mother" Tusch, her family, The Hangar, Shrine of the Air, photographs of aviators and other materials relating to her life.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- 1903-1916
- Aeronautics -- Collectibles
- Air pilots
- World War, 1914-1918

Types of Materials:

Clippings
Correspondence
Ephemera
Photographs
Scrapbooks

Names:

Byrd, Richard Evelyn, 1888-1957
Garber, Paul Edward, 1899-1992
Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1902-1974
Rickenbacker, Eddie, 1890-1973
Smithsonian Institution
Tusch, Mary E. "Mother"
United States. Army School of Military Aeronautics

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Family photographs, circa 1870-1936 and undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Family photographs, "Mother, Father, Sister; 8/7/70", circa 1870-1949 and undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Photographs, Mother Tusch receives testimonial from the United States Air Force and others
Box 1, Folder 4	Negatives, Mother Tusch and others
Box 1, Folder 5	American Legion Distinguished Service Certificate, February 22, 1931
Box 1, Folder 6	Journal and ancestral documentation
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs of The Hangar, Shrine of the Air, folder 1 of 3
Box 2, Folder 1	Photographs of The Hangar, Shrine of the Air, folder 2 of 3
Box 2, Folder 2	Photographs of The Hangar, Shrine of the Air, folder 3 of 3
Box 2, Folder 3	Negatives of The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum
Box 2, Folder 4	Report, Aeronautical Collection in The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum, Mrs. C.A. "Mother" Tusch, Berkeley, California, January 19 - February 12, 1947, inventory 1950 and draft accession report
Box 2, Folder 5	Photographs, Paul Edward Garber
Box 2, Folder 6	Inventoried Photographs, 1-99
Box 2, Folder 7	Inventoried Photographs, 100-199
Box 3, Folder 1	Inventoried Photographs, 200-299
Box 3, Folder 2	Inventoried Photographs, 300-399
Box 3, Folder 3	Inventoried Photographs, 400-499
Box 3, Folder 4	Inventoried Photographs, 500-599
Box 3, Folder 5	Inventoried Photographs, 600-699
Box 3, Folder 6	Inventoried Photographs, 700-999
Box 3, Folder 7	Photographs not inventoried

Box 4, Folder 1	Formal Military Unit photographs, folder 1 of 3
Box 4, Folder 2	Formal Military Unit photographs, folder 2 of 3
Box 4, Folder 3	Formal Military Unit photographs, folder 3 of 3
Box 4, Folder 4	Snapshots, folder 1 of 2
Box 4, Folder 5	Snapshots, folder 2 of 2
Box 5, Folder 1	Register of Visitors at The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum, #1, 1917-1918
Box 5, Folder 2	Register of Visitors at The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum, #2, 1918-1920
Box 5, Folder 3	Register of Visitors at The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum, #3a, 1939-1946 Notes: Per manuscript note on inside cover - "Register #3 was stolen."
Box 5, Folder 4	Register of Visitors at The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum, #4, 1923-1933
Box 5, Folder 5	Register of Visitors at The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum, #5, 1940-1949
Box 5, Folder 6	Register of Visitors at The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum, #6, 1949
Box 6, Folder 1	Small Address Book
Box 6, Folder 2	Address Book in Leather Holder
Box 6, Folder 3	Birthday Book [NASM 9A12047]
Box 6, Folder 4	Funeral/condolence book from Mary E. Tusch's funeral, 1960
Box 6, Folder 5	Records of the students at the School of Military Aeronautics at the University of California Notes: Contains lists of students at the School of Military Aeronautics, Berkeley, California, 1917-1918, with sick reports, tests and syllabi, photo lists of facility, and documents of the University Mother Club.
Box 6, Folder 6	"Story of the Hangar and Mother Tusch"
Box 7, Folder 1	Binder S-110D Notes: Contains petitions and correspondence regarding <i>The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum</i> being preserved in the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.
Box 7, Folder 2	Wills
Box 7, Folder 3	Correspondence

	Notes:	(Letter, photo and "piece of the Hindenburg" removed and given to Aeronautics Division)
Box 7, Folder 4		News clippings and articles, 1924-1932
Box 7, Folder 5		News clippings and articles, 1933-1955
Box 7, Folder 6		News clippings and articles, 1956-1983 and undated
Box 8, Folder 1	Scrapbook 1, folder 1 of 2	
	Notes:	-Mary E. Tusch, Portrait -Scrapbook, 1 of 2, Photographs and clippings pertaining to Mrs. C.A. "Mother" Tusch, formerly of Berkeley, California. Property of her daughter Mrs. Paul Edward Garber, 1144 44th Place, SE, Washington, 19, DC, Phone Ludlow 2 5758, prepared November 1959 -Scrapbook, 2 of 2 -World War I Scrapbook given to Mary E. Tusch by John Pierson
Box 8, Folder 2		Scrapbook 1, folder 2 of 2
Box 8, Folder 3		Oversize photographs and article
Box 8, Folder 4		Portrait of Mother Tusch with poem and notations by daughter
Box 8, Folder 5		Bound scrapbook [NASM 9A14838]
Box 9, Folder 1	Scrapbook 1	
	Notes:	-Scrapbook S-110E, Photographs of Mary E. Tusch and serviceman who trained at Berkeley, California
Box 9, Folder 2	Scrapbook 2	
	Notes:	-Scrapbook S-110F, Photographs of Mary E. Tusch and serviceman who trained at Berkeley, California (note: disassembled because of poor housing)
Box 10, Folder 1		Scrapbook of news clippings, 1917-1938
Box 11, Folder 1	Unknown family photograph	
	Notes:	-Family photograph, 19th century (unidentified woman)
Box 11, Folder 2		Vive La France!
Box 11, Folder 3		Oversize Photographs
Box 11, Folder 4		Scrapbook S-110A

Notes: -Scrapbook C-110A, Photographs of Mary E. Tusch and serviceman who trained at Berkeley, California

Box 11, Folder 5

[Oversize Yellow Scrapbook](#)

Notes: -Yellow Scrapbook , Photographs of Mary E. Tusch and serviceman who trained at Berkeley, California
-Photographs of the signatures and aircraft drawings on the walls of The Hangar, Shrine of the Air Museum (5 x 21 inches)

Box 11, Folder 6

[Mother Tusch's Wallpaper, 1 of 2](#)

Box 11, Folder 7

[Mother Tusch's Wallpaper, 2 of 2](#)

Box 11, Folder 8

[Oversize Photograph](#)

Box 12, Folder 1

[Correspondence from Edward V. Rickenbacher, James H. Doolittle and King George V of England](#)

Notes: Housed in the NASM Ramsey Room

Box 12, Folder 2

[Inventoried Photographs, signed, 1-200](#)

Box 12, Folder 3

[Inventoried Photographs, signed, 201-900](#)

Box 12, Folder 4

[Photographs not inventoried, signed](#)