

## Media Contacts

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## First Flight Foundation Donates Funds for Reproduction 1911 Wright Glider

A full-scale reproduction of the glider that Orville Wright and British aviator Alexander Ogilvie flew at Kill Devil Hills in 1911 now soars inside the entrance at the **N.C. Museum of History** in Raleigh. The object is based on the glider the men used from Oct. 16 to 26 to make nearly 100 test glides. On Oct. 24, Wright made a flight of 9 minutes and 45 seconds into the face of a 45-mph gale, setting a record that stood for 10 years.

With a 32-foot wingspan, the new addition to the N.C. Museum of History was made possible with funds from the First Flight Foundation in Kitty Hawk. On March 20, 2014, Will Plentl, president of the foundation, presented a \$150,000 check to Lyl Clinard, chair of the N.C. Museum of History Foundation Board, to cover the cost of the glider.

“With our gift today, the North Carolina Museum of History begins the process to share with all their visitors all the years of work by the Wrights in North Carolina between 1901 and 1911,” says Plentl. “The combined efforts of the work in Dayton and the work, as well as studies, on the Outer Banks moved the world into the aviation era.”

Special guest **Amanda Wright Lane**, great-grandniece of the Wright brothers, attended the check presentation. Sharing a connection to the past, Clinard gave Lane a photograph of her grandfather, North Carolina governor Angus W. McLean, with Orville Wright. The photo was taken on Dec. 17, 1928, in Kitty Hawk at the 25th anniversary of the Wright brothers’ first flight on Dec. 17, 1903.

The Wright brothers achieved the world’s first powered, heavier-than-air, manned, controlled, and sustained flight. A reproduction of the 1903 Wright flyer is featured in the exhibit *The Story of North Carolina*.

“The 1911 glider will help us tell more of the Wright brothers’ story in North Carolina,” remarks Ken Howard, museum director. “We are grateful to the First Flight Foundation for this generous contribution. Hundreds of thousands of museum visitors will see the glider each year and learn more about this important part of our state’s history.”

Adds Lane, “I am overwhelmed that the North Carolina Museum of History values the complete story of the Wright brothers’ work in North Carolina. Their work here changed the world, and it is our joint story to tell.”

Rick and Sue Young of Chesterfield, Va., spent two years meticulously researching and constructing the 1911 glider. It is the 19th Wright reproduction they have designed and built.

“It’s really an honor to be able to expand on the Wright brothers’ achievements in the heart of Carolina,” notes Rick. “They did far more than the first flight; they created the industry of aviation.”

The First Flight Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to champion the Wright brothers’ legacy. The foundation staged and presented the First Flight Centennial in 2003 and the Soaring 100 (Oct. 21-24, 2011), the International Centennial of Orville Wright’s 1911 world-record glider flight.

The installation of the 1911 glider is a wonderful way to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the museum’s current building at 5 East Edenton Street. The building opened on April 23, 1994, with celebrations that included a flyover of vintage and modern aircraft.

### **Amanda Wright Lane**

Lane’s great-grandfather was Lorin Wright, brother of Orville and Wilbur. As a Wright family spokesperson, Lane consults with researchers and academics who are working to preserve the legacy of the Wright brothers, gives lectures on her family’s history, and works with state officials in both North Carolina and Ohio to raise awareness for the two national parks in the United States dedicated to telling the story of the Wright brothers. Lane is a trustee for the Wright Family Foundation of the Dayton Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable fund.

For information about the Museum of History, call 919-807-7900 or access [www.ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

### **IMAGE CAPTIONS**

**File #02, 1911 glider:** A full-scale reproduction of the glider that Orville Wright and British aviator Alexander Ogilvie flew at Kill Devil Hills in 1911 now soars inside the entrance at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh.

**File #14, check presentation:** On March 20, 2014, at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh, Will Plentl, president of the First Flight Foundation, presented a \$150,000 check for a reproduction 1911 Wright glider to Lyl Clinard, chair of the N.C. Museum of History Foundation Board. *Left to right:* Wilson Hayman, secretary, N.C. Museum of History Foundation; Jackson Marshall, associate director, N.C. Museum of History; Amanda Wright Lane, great-grandniece of the Wright brothers; Will Plentl; Lyl Clinard; and Kevin Cherry, deputy secretary of the Office of Archives and History, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

### **About the N.C. Museum of History**

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 300,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

### **About the First Flight Foundation**

The foundation staged the 2003 centennial celebration of the first flight, The Event of the Century. The foundation funded and completed projects at the Wright Brothers National Memorial, including: monument restoration, \$941,490; Wright Plaza improvements, \$100,000; the pilot facility, \$300,000; the First Flight Centennial Pavilion, \$2,000,000; and centennial funding, \$1,850,000.

As a result of these efforts, the foundation has received several awards and recognition, including: the “Franco Mazzotti” Mille Miglia Club Foundation prize for “Courageous Intelligence-Intelligent Courage” in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright; Combs-Gates Award from the National Business Aviation Association; and nomination for the Director’s Cooperative Conservation Award External Category.

The foundation served as a patron sponsor and collaborated with the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 2015 for the 2015 Exemplar, the Wright Brothers, and induction into the U.S. Air Force Academy Hall of Exemplars. The Wrights are the only civilians elected to the hall.

### **About the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources**

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources (NCDCCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state’s cultural resources to build the social, cultural and economic future of North Carolina. Led by Secretary Susan W. Kluttz, NCDCCR’s mission to enrich lives and communities creates opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history and libraries in North Carolina that will spark creativity, stimulate learning, preserve the state’s history and promote the creative economy. NCDCCR was the first state organization in the nation to include all agencies for arts and culture under one umbrella.

Through arts efforts led by the N.C. Arts Council, the N.C. Symphony and the N.C. Museum of Art, NCDCCR offers the opportunity for enriching arts education for young and old alike and economic stimulus engines for our state’s communities. NCDCCR’s Divisions of Archives and Records, State Historic Sites, and State History Museums preserve, document and interpret North Carolina’s rich cultural heritage. NCDCCR’s State Library of North Carolina is the principal library of state government and builds the capacity of all libraries in our state, developing and supporting access to traditional and online collections such as genealogy and resources for the blind and physically handicapped.

NCDCCR annually serves more than 19 million people through its 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, the nation’s first state-supported symphony orchestra, the State Library, the N.C. Arts Council and the State Archives of North Carolina. NCDCCR champions our state’s creative industry that accounts for more than 300,000 jobs and generates nearly \$18.5 billion in revenues. For more information, please call [919-807-7300](tel:919-807-7300) or visit [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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