The Wright Brothers: Orville and Wilbur Wright

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In 1903, history was made by two small town brothers from Ohio. Wilbur and Orville Wright were brothers who both took a passion in aptitude for science. These brothers became innovative, helped technology, and inspiration on December 17th, 1903. In North hawk, Carolina, the wright brothers had their first successful flight on the world’s first aircraft. This concluded in a major expansion of Industrialism and Transportation. These inventors caused a reaction of innovation because they flew through their limits.

Wilbur Wright, born in Melville, Indiana of 1867, was the oldest of the Wright Brothers. He was the middle child in a family of 7. He was a scholastic kid who had plans to attend Yale University. However, in the winter of 1885-86, Wilbur had an accident that changed his aspirations. He was in a hockey game when another player forcefully struck him right in his face. “Though most of his injuries healed, the incident plunged Wilbur into a depression. He did not receive his high school diploma, canceled plans for college and retreated to his family’s home.” (Biography.com) Until 1889, Wilbur aided to his mother and her tuberculosis which eventually led to her death. Shortly after, Wilbur and his younger brother Orville started their own newspaper called the West Side News. After creating the phenomenal aircraft, Wilbur Wright, Orville Wright, and their younger sister Katherine Wright left to France. Wilbur would give rides to people and would file contracts. Wilbur Wright was the business minded part of the two brothers company. One day when flying to Boston, Wright caught typhoid fever eventually causing his death on May 30, 1912 in Dayton, Ohio. Shortly after, he left the presidency role to his brother Orville.

Born on August 19, 1871 in Dayton, Ohio, Orville Wright was born. At a young age, Orville was curious and mischievous. His passion for aeronautics grew when his dad bought his brother and himself a toy helicopter. Shortly after moving to Indiana, he became obsessed with kites. Shortly after moving back to his hometown in Ohio, the not very studious Orville dropped out of high school his senior year and opened a print shop with his brother. Shortly after his mother dying that same year, Orville, Wilbur, and their younger sister Katherine grew a strong bond when she took over the roles of her mother. The following years, Orville kept pursuing aerodynamics and eventually creating the Airplane. They started selling airplanes with Contracts in Europe and The United States, eventually becoming so wealthy that they'd build a family home in their childhood town of Dayton. After Wilbur's Death, Orville had to take over the Wright Company. With little care for the business aspect of their work, he sold the company in 1915. Orville started working for NACA and NASA. Orville eventually cut his sister, Katharine, out of his life because she decided to marry. “He cut off communication with his sister, Katharine, when she married in 1926. Neither Orville nor Wilbur ever married, and he was greatly upset by his sister's choice. In 1929, he had to be persuaded to visit Katharine at her deathbed.” (Biography) After having his second heart attack, Orville Wright died on January 30, 1948.

The Wright Brothers were innovating people who designed, engineered, and piloted the first aircraft. When Lilienthal, the first guided plane inventor, crashed unsuccessfully, the boys started developing their own thoughts and attempts at mechanical flight. The first ever successful guided mechanical flight by the brothers took place in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina on December 17th, 1903. “But real, powered, man-carrying, controlled, long-distance flight? That honor still belongs to the Wright Brothers, but not for their feeble flights of 1903. On October 5, 1905, at Huffman Prairie near Dayton, Ohio, Wilbur Wright flew the modified Wright Flyer III for 38 kilometers.” (Scientific American) This eventually led to them both owning the Wright Industry. The Wright Company opened in the fall of 1909, when they decided to start manufacturing their airplanes. This led to Wall Street typhoons like Cornelius Vanderbilt III to back them up. They also started teaching people to be pilots with flight school. They’d sell in Europe and the United States. Wilbur was the president of the company mainly due to his knack for business and previously owning a news press and biking company with his brother Orville. Orville didn’t like the business aspect as much; he was more of the salesman. The brothers supported Aeronautical groups like NACA and NASA. They’re still considered iconic historical figures with the world; they even have displays in NASA and the Smithsonian: Aeronautic Displays. They became famous for creating the industry of aeronautics and flight transportation causing large/numerous companies today.

Wilbur and Orville Wright did not just create the successful mechanical aircraft. They also had two different businesses aside from the Wright Company. They opened a news press shortly after the death of their mother. Wilbur was the owner of this company, Orville also worked for it. They ended up opening a bicycle shop and that led to a three store franchise. After the first unsuccessful air flight, the brothers became fascinated with the concept of aerodynamics. Eventually this led to them to starting trials, creating contraptions and such, then December 17th, in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the brothers had a miracle. Doing a private test flight, they had the first ever successful mechanical aircraft flight. Eventually realizing how unsafe the conditions of flight were, the brothers started improving and advancing the airplane. Afterwards, the brothers started selling to the U.S. Military and the French. Orville stayed in the United States as the salesmen to our nation, while Wilbur moved to France. That of which eventually led to the move of Katherine and Orville also. Wilbur was the president of The Wright Company while Orville was happily the salesman. After Wilbur's passing, the company was left to Orville. He shortly sold the company a few years later due to the fact that business wasn't for him. The brothers got involved with NACA and NASA, both working for the aerodynamic purposes. They also currently have exhibits in The Smithsonian: Air and Space Museum. The brothers had such a large impact and are still represented as positive historians in flight and transportation.

The Wright Brothers impacted history in a vast way. They were the first people to successfully develop a supportive aircraft. Due to this, we have such a variety of transportation in the stratosphere. They’re remembered as two historical-inventors who have molded the way of transportation. I believe that they’ve positively contributed to not just our nation’s society, but the world’s. Their impact has changed all limits with transportation, they pushed boundaries and took risks that now let’s us do the same.

Citations

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