



Dryden, Lt. Colonel Charles, (1920-2008.)

Papers, 1940-2008.

Special Collections Department

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Dryden, Lieutenant Colonel Charles (1920-2008.) Papers, 1940-2008.
7 c.f.

Charles Dryden was born September 16, 1920 in Brooklyn, New York to Charles Tucker Dryden and Violet Dryden, both Jamaican immigrants. On August 19, 1941 he began his aviation cadet training at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. Dryden was one of three graduates of class 42-D who were commissioned as second lieutenants on April 29, 1942. Lt. Col. Dryden was ordered to the 99th Pursuit Squadron and the 332 Fighter Group, informally known as, the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen fought in the Italian, Sicilian and North African campaigns during World War Two. On June 9, 1943 he led the first ever black aerial combat mission in US Air Force history over Pantelleria, Sicily.

After WWII, Dryden served in Korea, Japan, Germany, and various domestic military bases. Lt. Col. Charles Dryden retired from the USAF on August 31, 1962 after 21 years of service. Charles Dryden was assigned to Mitchel Air Field in Hempstead, N.Y. (where Hofstra University's North Campus now stands) during "Operation Bootstrap." While stationed at Mitchel, Dryden was able to attend Hofstra University and completed his B.A. in Political Science in 1955. In 1957 he received his M.A. in Public Law and Government from Columbia University. In 1996 Charles Dryden was given an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from Hofstra University

Post USAF, Dryden worked for Pepsi-Cola (1964-1968), Martins-Jamaica (1972-1973) and Lockheed-Georgia Company 1975-1988. He was president of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Atlanta Chapter from 1983-1986. Charles Dryden married Irma "Pete" Cameron in 1943. Together, they had three children: Charles Jr., Keith, and Eric. The two divorced after 32 years of marriage. In the late 1970's Dryden married Marymal Morgan. From his marriage to Marymal, he gained four stepchildren: George, Anthony, Kenneth, and Cornelia.

This collection includes, correspondence, photographs, notes, newspaper clippings, military documents, flight records, personal documents, awards, drafts and a signed copy of *A-Train: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman*, Lt. Col. Dryden's personal recollection of his time as a Tuskegee Airman and other affairs.

The Charles Dryden Collection is arranged into Seven Series:

- I. Biographical Information and Correspondence
- II. Newsletters, Newspapers, and Articles
- III. A-Train: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman
- IV. Atlanta Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen and Military Information
- V. Tributes, Awards, and Public Appearances
- VI. Writings, Artwork, and Personal
- VII. Photographs

SERIES I **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

BOX 1 **Biographical/Personal Information**

Folder

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Biographical Information | n.d. |
| 2 | East Point Diabetes Clinic | 2006 |
| 3 | School Transcripts | 1955-1957 |

Correspondence

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 4 | Abts, H. – Arcieri, D. | 1990-2007 |
| 5 | Letter from First Lady Laura Bush | 2002 |
| 6 | Baker, J. – Burkhardt, M. | 1989-2008 |
| 7 | Caballero, M. – Crawford, P. | 1968-2008 |
| 8 | Daniell, J. – Dryden, M. | 1975-2008 |
| 9 | Edwards, L. – Gripper, W. | 1991-2008 |
| 10 | Hake, C. – Hutfels, J. | 1991-2008 |
| 11 | Ingels, M. – Jump, H. | 1990-2008 |
| 12 | Kapple, D. – Kuter, L. | 1949-2008 |
| 13 | La Grone, R. – Lund, J. | 1991-2008 |
| 14 | Lieutenant General Russel Davis | n.d. |
| 15 | Mabe, M. – Moye, T. | 1991-2008 |

BOX 2 **Correspondence Continued**

Folder

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1 | Nevels, L. – Owens, Z. | 1992-2008 |
| 2 | President Franklin D. Roosevelt | 1942 |
| 3 | President of Hofstra, Stuart Rabinowitz | 2007 |
| 4 | Parrotta, L. – Proctor, B. | 1966-2008 |
| 5 | Rachel, A. – Stone, P. | 1991-2008 |
| 6 | Stewart, H. – Vogel, S. | 1992-2008 |
| 7 | Wade, B. – Yamaguchi, Y. | 1964-2008 |
| 8 | Family Reunion | 1987-1994 |
| 9 | Letters of Appreciation | 1960-1994 |
| 10 | Personal | 1968-2006 |
| 11 | Emory, M. – Robertson, R. – Letters of Recommendation | 1969-2007 |

SERIES II **NEWSLETTERS, NEWSPAPERS, & ARTICLES**

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 12-18 | Thank God I'm Not Young Anymore (TGINYAM)
Articles, News Clippings, and Notes |
|-------|--|

BOX 3

Folder

1-11	Thank God I'm Not Young Anymore (TGINYAM) Articles, News Clippings, and Notes	
12-16	Newsletters/Articles	1940s – 2000s
BOX 4 Folder	Newsletters/Articles & Newspaper Clippings	
1-3	Newsletters/Articles	2000s / Undated
4-13	Newspaper Clippings	1940s - 2006
BOX 5 Folder		
1-3	Newspaper Clippings	2007-2011 / undated
<u>SERIES III</u>	<u>A-TRAIN: MEMOIRS OF A TUSKEGEE AIRMAN</u>	
4	Cover Page, Pages 7-60	1990s
5	Pages 61-153	1990s
6	Pages 154-246	1990s
7	Pages 247-349	1990s
8	Pages 350-409	1990s
9	Illustrations List, Review, Airplane Model Copy of Book "A-Train: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman"	1990s
BOX 6 Folder		
1	Forward, Prologue, Title Page, Pages 3-74	1995
2	Pages 75-171	1995
3	Pages 172-265	1995
4	Pages 266-371	1995
5	Pages 372-457	1995
6	Pages 458-482	1995
7	Notes, Review, Outline, & U of Alabama Press Agreement	1995
8	Book Signing Information	1987-2007
9	The Univ. of Alabama Press Packet for "A-Train..."	1995
10	State of Alabama Documents and Letters	2000-2002
11	Univ. of Alabama Documents	1996-1998
12	Letters to C. Dryden – U of Alabama	1995-1996
13	The U of Alabama Press	1991-1995
14	Alabama Military Hall of Honor Program	2006
<u>SERIES IV</u>	<u>ATLANTA TUSKEGEE AIRMEN/MILITARY INFORMATION</u>	
	Atlanta Chapter	
15	Lonely Eagles Calendar	n.d.
16	Scholarship and Banquet Information	1979-2004
17	Gatherings / Events	1985-2008
BOX 7	Atlanta Chapter	

Folder

1	Outings	1987-1996
2	Directory and Member Information	1989
3	Luncheons	1995-2007
4	Conventions	1995
5	Proclamation from city of Tuskegee	2005
6	6 th Annual Convocation in Celebration of TAP	2006
7	Milwaukee Academy of Aviation TAP Celebration	2006
8-13	Tuskegee Airmen Program (TAP) Appearances	1997-2008
14	Picture of Tuskegee Airmen with Signatures	n.d.
15	Headquarters 99 th Fighter Squadron	1943-2003
16	List of Tuskegee Airmen by Class & Graduates	1999
17	332 nd Fighter Group 50 year Commencement	2000
18	Tuskegee Army Flying School Booklet	n.d.
19	Original Tuskegee Army Flying School Booklet	n.d.
20	Roster of Graduates from Advanced Flying School	1943
21	Alabama Power Tuskegee Airmen Event Pamphlets	2002
22	Ron Spriggs Exhibit of Tuskegee Airmen in Kentucky	2007
23	List of GAHOF Artifacts	1994
24	Reproduction of Charles Dryden at Tuskegee	1944
25	Order Form for "The Tuskegee Airmen"	1997
26	Tuskegee Information	n.d.
27	Tuskegee Airmen Story Booklets	1988-2000s

BOX 8**Folder**

1	Emails about Tuskegee Airmen Greeting	2007
2	Statue Memorial Fund	n.d.
3	Deaths of Fellow Airmen	n.d.
4	The Official National Publication	1987
5	Spann Watson	n.d.
6	Tuskegee Art Project	n.d.
7	Tuskegee Army Airfield Layout	1943
8-12	Individual Flight Records	1942-1961
13	Special Orders	1941-1961
14	Military Documents	1942-1962
15	Officer Evaluation Comments	1962
16	Insert from Student Pilot Log Book	1940
17	Request for Authorization of Leave of Military Personnel	1958-1961
18	Fellow Tuskegee Airmen/Military Colleagues	n.d.

SERIES V **TRIBUTES, AWARDS, & PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

19-22	National Museum of Patriotism	2003-2005
23	Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame Notice	1995-2002
24	Kentucky and Georgia Hall of Fame	2000-2005

BOX 9

Folder		n.d.
1	Air Museum Flyer/Brochures	2002-2003
2	United States Colored Troops in the Civil War	1996
3	Protégé Diallo Creal's Graduation & Commissioning	2008
4	African American History: Carter G. Woodson	1986
5	A Salute to Lee A. Archer Jr. Program and Table List	1991
6	Flyer for Lt. General Benjamin O. Davis Jr.	1997
7	USPS American Commemoratives Benjamin O. Davis, Sr.	1995
8	Memorial Pamphlet of Phyllis Johnson	2003
9	Fort Sill Black History Month Celebration	n.d.
10	Miscellaneous Pamphlets	1996-2008
11	Events Honoring Charles Dryden	
12	Certificates of Appreciation	1946-1957
13	Certificates and Diplomas	2005
14	Tattoo Awards	2001
15	Trumpet Awards	2007
16	Independent Sector Alumni Hall of Distinction	2007
17	Presentations at Universities	2005-2008
18	Flyers with Charles Dryden as Guest Speaker	2006
19	McDonald's Air & Sea Show	n.d.
20	Congressional Gold Medal Celebration Speech	2006
21	International Black Aerospace Council	2004
22	An Evening with Russell Simmons	1987-2006
23	Speaking Engagements/Materials	1963
24	Political Materials	1963-1966
25	Civil Rights Panel Discussion	2007

SERIES VI **WRITINGS, ARTWORK, & PERSONAL**

26	Essays	1944-1994
27	Poems	n.d.
28	Pictures/Postcards	2006-2007/n.d.
29	Financial	1995-2005
30	Certificates of Birth, Marriage, Vehicle Title, IDs	1939-2008
31	Legal Documents	1999-2004
32	Academic Reports on Sons, Erick & Keith	1970
33	Personal - Miscellaneous	n.d.

BOX 10 **Personal Belongings**

Folder		
1	Wallet	
2	Limited Edition Trading Pin	
3	Student Pilot Log Book	1940
4	Student Pilot Rating Book	1941
5	Case with Monogram	n.d.
6	Tuskegee Scrapbook	n.d.
7-11	Telephone Call Log Books	1992-1996

BOX 11

Folder

1	The Communist Manifesto: Democracy in America	1966
2	Remembering Pearl Harbor	1996
	Black Military Oral History Project, Oral History of C.D.	1982
	Binder with Protégés' Information	n.d.
	Tuskegee Army Flying School Binder/Scrapbook	n.d.
3-4	Calendars	1985-2008
5	Certificates Honoring C. Dryden	2004/2007
6	Miscellaneous	

SERIES VII PHOTOGRAPHS**BOX 12-14 Photographs**