

# Guide to the “Chuck” Smith Ithaca Aviation Collection

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## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection gathers materials from former airline pilot and early Ithaca aviator Charles “Chuck” Smith. Smith was the son of Louis Smith, president of Ithaca Gun Company, and grandson of LeRoy Smith, founder of Ithaca Gun. As a teenager, Chuck was introduced to flying in 1910, and got into commercial flying after World War I.

The collection includes letters and newspaper clippings concerning Smith’s career in flying, letters and responses from other early aviation pioneers and a set of nine audio cassettes with interviews Smith did with early aviator Paul D. Wilson.

## CONTAINER LIST

### *Description*

Clippings, letters and one photo from and to “Chuck” Smith on his career and eventual retirement from flying to become head of Ithaca Gun.

Clippings from “Cradle of Aviation” Newsletter, Folder 1  
correspondence between Smith and Frank Strnad,  
Other documents and Xerox copies on the Thomas-  
Morse Scout.

Correspondence about photos of Thomas-Morse Folder 2  
“Scout” and Xerox copies of Thomas-Morse related  
photos.

Private Pilot’s Handbook of Aeronautical Folder 3  
Knowledge — 1965 (full color, soft cover)

Folder 4

Early Ithaca Aviation photos (copies), set of 8x10 prints, mostly originals on early Ithaca aircraft.

Folder 5

Audio cassettes (9) of interviews with Paul D. Wilson by Charles "Chuck" Smith.

Folder 6