



The Wright Brothers had a Sister

*Katharine Wright's
Story*



**The Museum is located in the Terminal of
Burke Lakefront Airport**

Open Daily from 8am-8pm

**Gift Shop and Research Center is open
Monday through Saturday**

10am-4pm

Joan L. Hrubec Aviation Education Center

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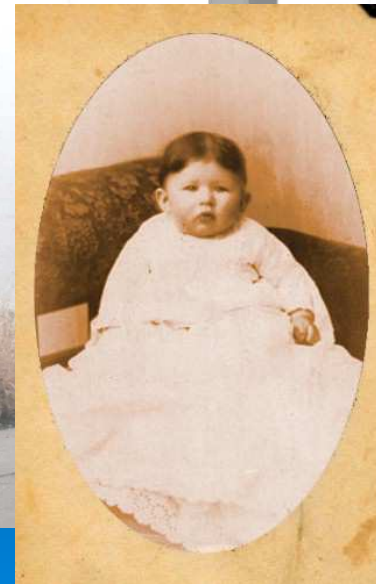
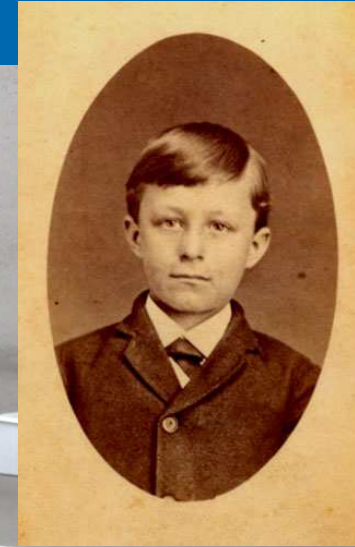
Milton Wright

Bishop in the United Brethren Church



Susan Koerner Wright

Daughter of a carriage maker



Left to Right: Reuchlin, Lorin, Wilbur, Orville, Katharine



- **Katharine Wright was born on August 19, 1874**

- **Her brother's affectionately called her "Swesterchen", or a shortened version of this German word meaning "little sister"**

- **Katharine was the youngest member of the Wright Family and the only female child**

Katharine at 4 years old



Katharine Wright in Elementary School, 1884



In 1889, when Katharine was only 15 years old, her mother died of Tuberculosis and Katharine assumes all the responsibilities of the household



Katharine attended Oberlin College and graduate in 1898 with a degree in English and Latin

She was the first person in her family to finish college





Katharine returned to Dayton after graduating and began teaching High School at Steele High School

Katharine continued to teach high school while her brothers, Wilbur and Orville, were experimenting with their glider and eventually successful powered aircraft. Though she was a frequent visitor to Huffman Prairie to watch and help her brothers while they worked.



Katharine left her job as a school teacher in 1908 after Orville sustained injuries after crashing during a demonstration of a military aircraft to U.S. Signal Corps. She stayed with Orville as he recovered in a hospital in Washington, D.C.



When Orville recovered Katharine traveled with him to Europe to meet up with Wilbur who was touring with one of the brother's airplanes

The Myth of the “Third Wright Brother”



62

When the Wright Family left France all three siblings were awarded the French Legion of Honor

The Trio as National Heroes





Katharine became heavily involved with the Wright Company and her signature was often present on shares of stock for the company

Katharine and Orville ca. 1915



When Wilbur died in 1912 from typhoid fever, Katharine became an officer of the Wright Company.

In 1915 Orville sold the Wright Company and in 1917 Milton Wright passed away.



**Katharine and Orville
move into a mansion they
called Hawthorne Hill just
south of Dayton.**

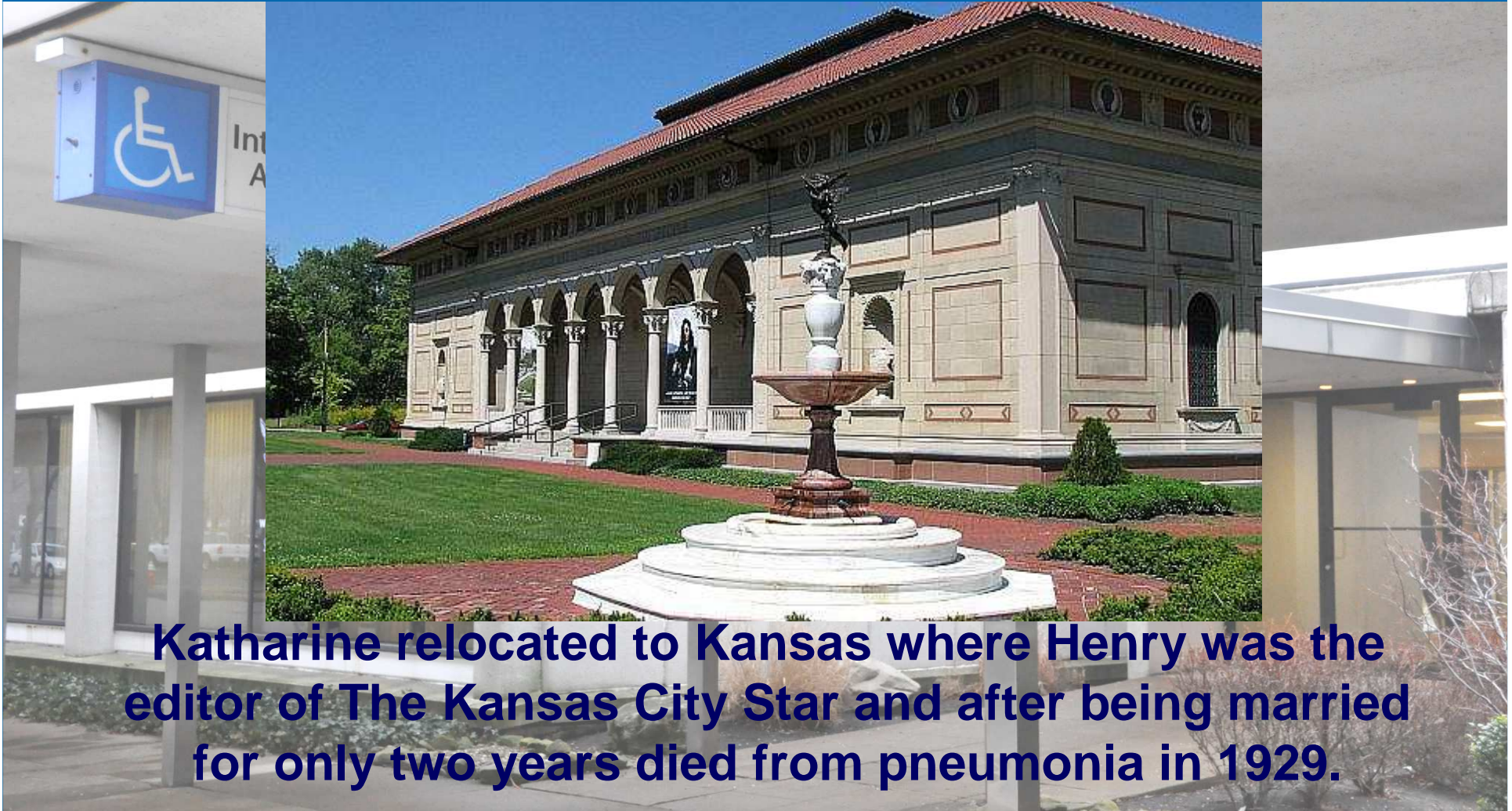
**In the 1920s Katharine
began serving on an
advisory board of Oberlin
College and became
reacquainted with a
former classmate, Henry
Haskell.**





After a secret long distance courtship, the couple decided to get married. Katharine was 52 years old at this time.

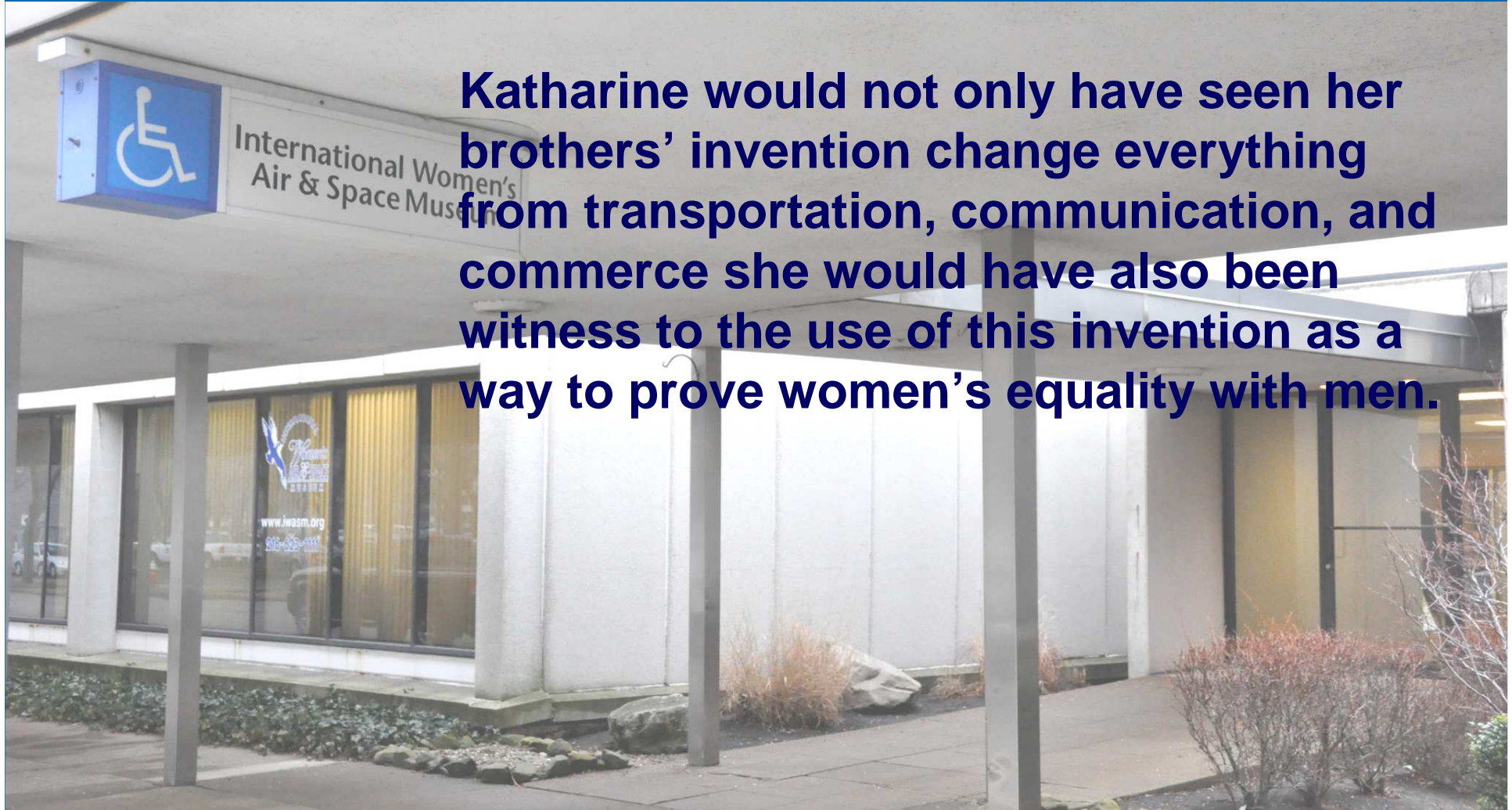
When Orville found out he refused to speak with Katharine ever again.



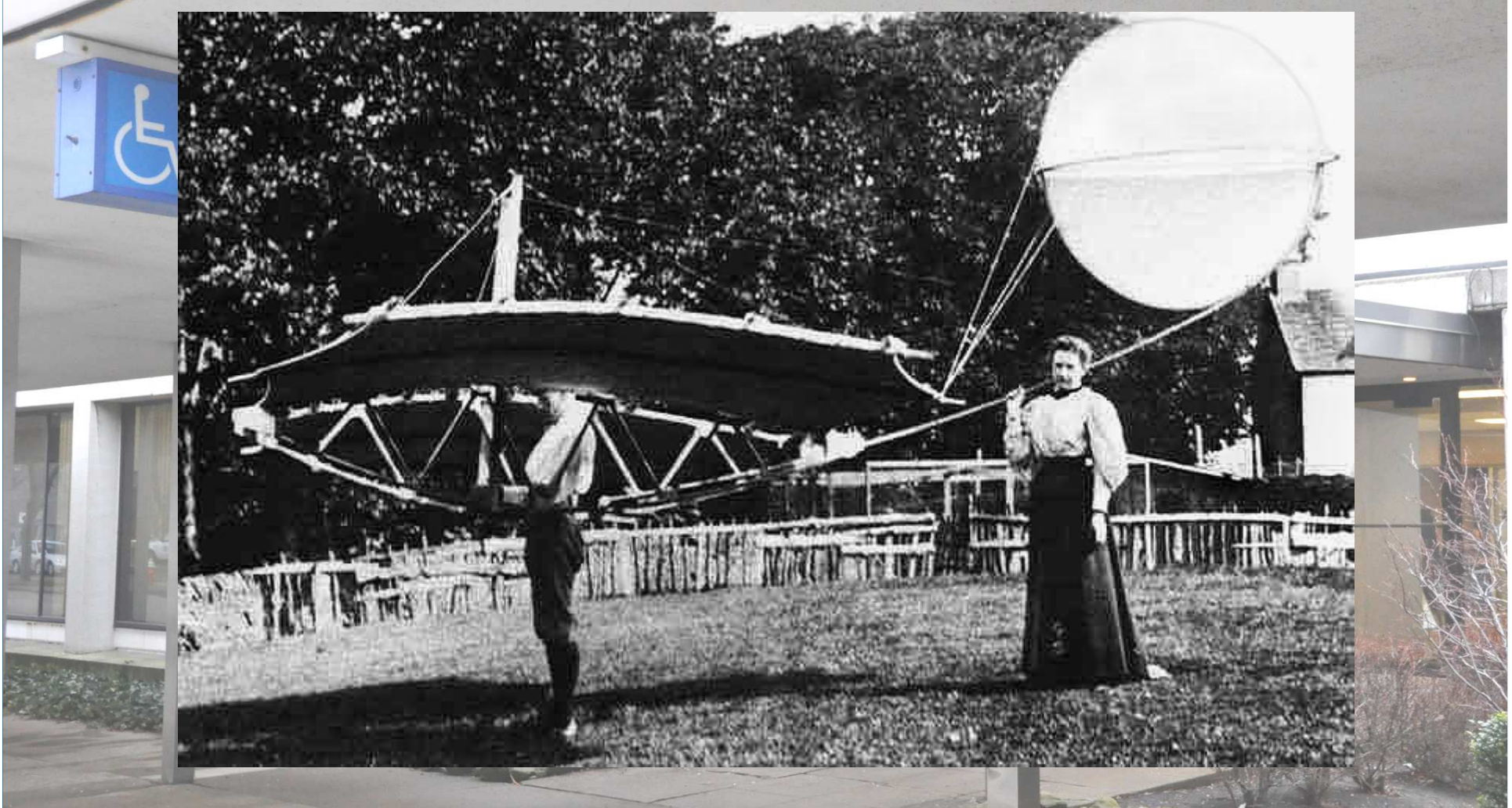
Katharine relocated to Kansas where Henry was the editor of The Kansas City Star and after being married for only two years died from pneumonia in 1929.

A fountain in remembrance of Katharine can be found at Oberlin College just outside of the Allen Art Museum.

Katharine would not only have seen her brothers' invention change everything from transportation, communication, and commerce she would have also been witness to the use of this invention as a way to prove women's equality with men.



Ella Pilcher

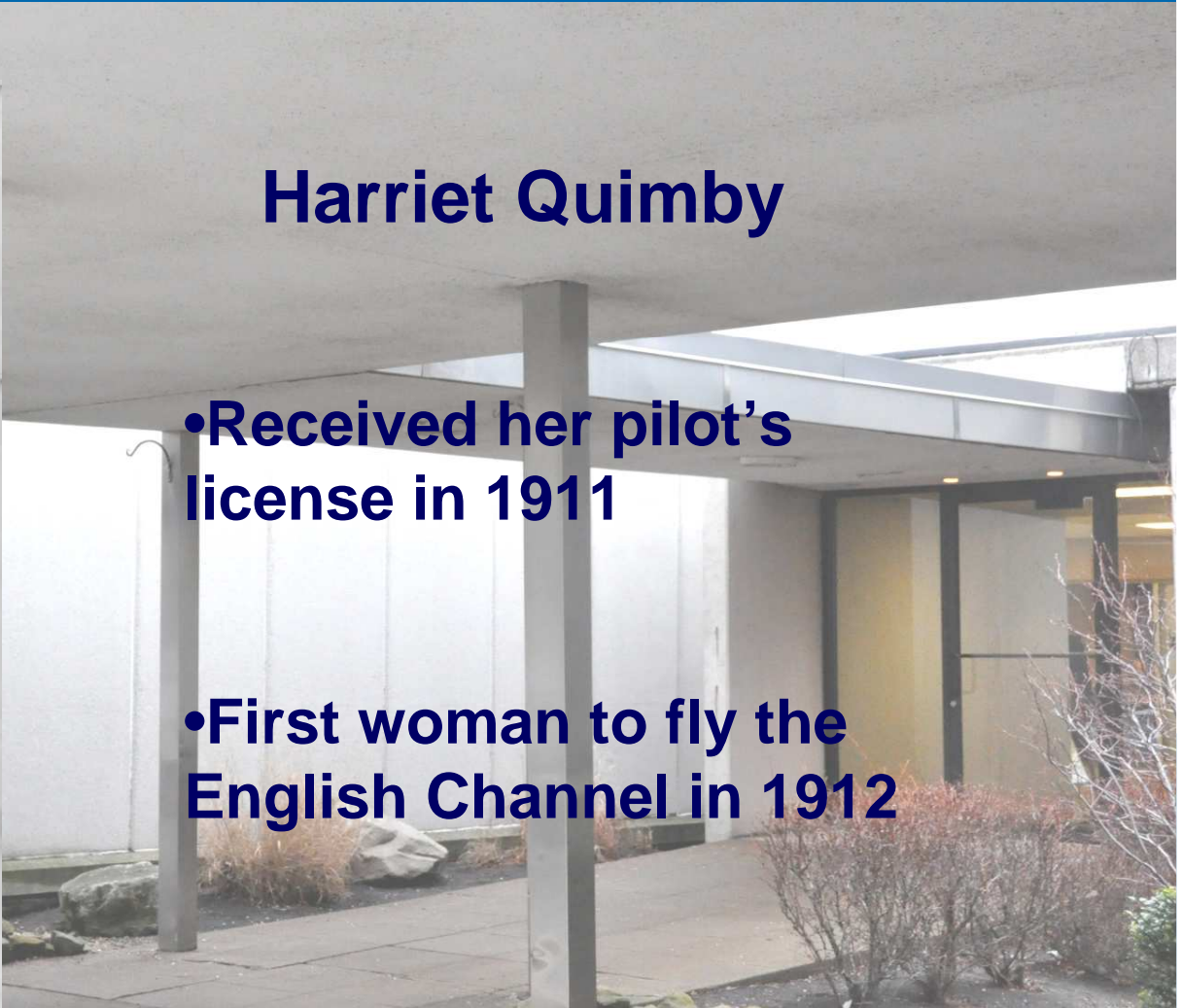


In 1895 British brother-sister team Percy and Ella Pilcher designed and built a heavier-than-air craft
Katharine would have been 21 years old at this time.



Harriet Quimby

- Received her pilot's license in 1911
- First woman to fly the English Channel in 1912





Bessie Coleman

- **Earned her pilot's license in 1921 becoming the first African American female pilot**
- **Was forced to travel to France to learn to fly because of prejudices against her gender and race**
- **Died in 1926 after a fatal barnstorming accident**



Amelia Earhart

- First woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean first as a passenger in 1928 and solo in 1932
- Disappeared attempting to circumnavigate the globe in 1937



Thank You!

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