

Collection #  
M 1222

## AMERICAN EAGLE FLIGHT 4184 COLLECTION, 1994–2014

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 4 manuscript boxes, 1 color photograph folder, 3 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1994–2014; Bulk, 1994–1995

PROVENANCE: Jennifer Stansberry Miller, March 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0071

NOTES:

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

On October 31, 1994 American Eagle Flight 4184—traveling from Indianapolis, Indiana to Chicago, Illinois—crashed into a soybean field three miles south of Roselawn, Indiana. All sixty-eight persons aboard (pilot, co-pilot, two flight attendants, and sixty-four passengers) were killed. In July 1996 the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) officially concluded that ice accumulation on the plane's wings had caused the accident. While flying in deteriorating weather conditions, the pilot stayed in a holding pattern as he waited for permission to land. Ice built up on the aircraft during this period of time and subsequently resulted in the crash.

Though an obvious tragedy, American Eagle Flight 4184 resulted in some positive changes for the airline industry: the plane's manufacturer, Avions de Transport Regional (ATR), modified its ATR-72 aircraft (the same model involved in the crash) to better remove ice, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued new rules on flight in icy conditions, and the National Weather Service created a new program of icing forecasts.

Another positive outcome was the establishment of the National Air Disaster Alliance. Comprised of victim's families from various aviation accidents, including Flight 4184, the organization played a pivotal role in the creation and passage of the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996. This legislation ensures better communication and aid to victim's families in the aftermath of a plane crash.

Sources:

Information in collection.

<http://www.americaneagleflight4184.com/>

<http://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Pages/AAR9601.aspx>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains newspaper clippings, correspondence, reports, photographs, and artifacts pertaining to American Eagle Flight 4184. Some of the topics covered include crash site recovery, grievance reports, memorials, the National Air Disaster Alliance/Foundation, and the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996. Portions of the National Transportation Safety Board's docket on the crash (Docket SA-512) are also included in this collection along with the second volume of the agency's official aircraft accident report released in 1996. (The first volume of this report includes findings from NTSB. The second volume is the response by Bureau Enquetes-Accidents [France]).

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