

According to Julius Coller II in the book *The Shakopee Story* in 1960, the glider “bounced off bluff and frozen lakes to soar in the air for several minutes, like a bird, in contraptions that resembled an oversized box kite rather than a plane.”

After each flight, Herb and Ray would carry the glider back up the bluff, and then they would try once again. Usually each glider lasted about five flights. Then the two brothers would salvage what was left from the glider, and carted the rest of the demolished glider home for kindling wood.

According the Ray, the work took a lot of enthusiasm and no brains whatever! But this did take vision and daring, and Herb and Ray Strunk had it!



Raymond married Mary Scherkenbuch on June 28, 1911. In the picture above, Raymond's brother, Herbert, was the best man.

Raymond Carrollous Charles Strunk died on Minneapolis on September 26, 1957. His brother, Herbert Julius Strunk died 11 years early, on August 18, 1946 in New York.

For young people of Shakopee, the two young men from Shakopee taught the children that the Strunk brothers worked together to finally fly!

It's a bird! It's a plane! Now, with Raymond and Herbert, it was a glider, and the two brothers took to the sky in 1906.



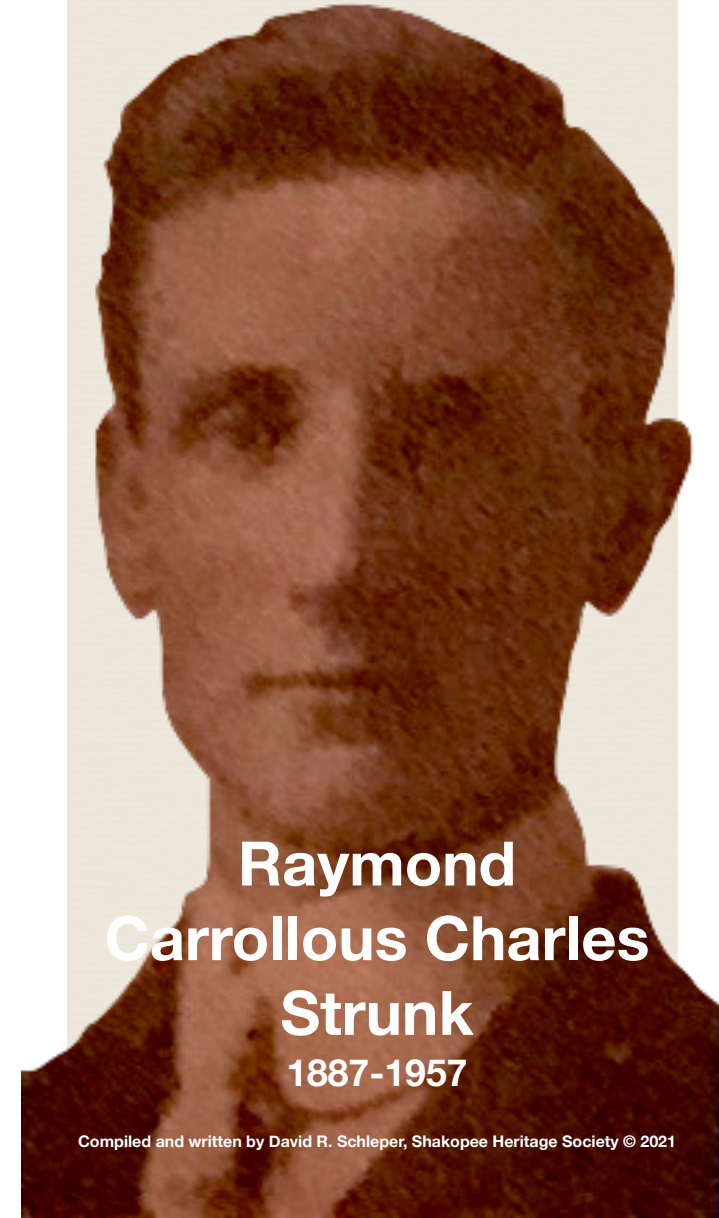
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## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



**Raymond  
Carrollous Charles  
Strunk**  
1887-1957

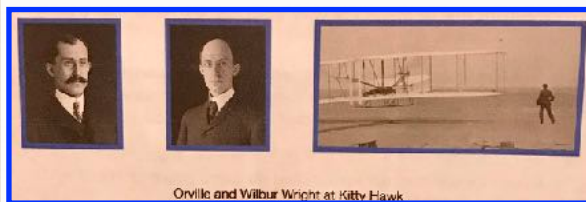


One of the gliders that Raymond and Herbert built is found in the book, *The Shakopee Story* by Julius Collier II. The brothers built the gliders, then headed across the Holmes Street bridge and then up the Flying Cloud Drive to the top of the bluffs. Then they took turns heading down the bluffs, while the other would tag along, along with other youth from Shakopee, including Charles Holman. The brother in the glider would rise up to 50 feet, then float about 600 feet until gliding to a jolting landing on the frozen lakes and prairie on the north side of the Minnesota River.

On December 17, 1903, Orville Wright and his brother, Wilbur, made four brief flights at Kitty Hawk with their first powered aircraft. The Wright brothers had invented the first successful airplane.

Raymond and Herbert Strunk were school kids that year but the idea of flying was in their blood.

They were sons of Arnold Strunk (1857-1938) and Lisette Entrup Strunk (1859-1927).



Orville and Wilbur Wright at Kitty Hawk

Raymond and his brother Herbert learned about Orville and Wilbur Wright flight, and it made them build a glider in 1906.

Ray and Herb read about the flights in the newspapers, and by 1906, the two started building a glider in their large, two-story red barn in the back of the family's home.

Raymond Carrollous Charles Strunk was born on June 25, 1887. His brother, Herbert Julian Strunk, was born on on April 8, 1891.

The first glider had a bamboo frame (fish poles) and was covered with light muslin stitched or tacked to the frame. The framework of subsequent models was made of hand-sawed light pine.

The first glider had skis, and when it took off from the bluffs north of the Minnesota River, it skidded down the bluffs.

The glider sometimes skied down the bluffs, and sometimes, during the summer, it was towed by a rope connected to Dr. H.O. Smith's red Rambler touring car.

Young children from Shakopee and the surrounded area were thrilled as they watched the glider and they felt that Ray and Herb were heroes to the young fans.

Between 1906 through 1908, Ray and Herb built several gliders, some with wheels. One brother would ride on each flight, while the other one would tag along, along with many youth from Shakopee. "These crafts would rise to a height of 40 or 50 feet and then soar and float for about 600 feet before gliding to a jolting landing on a frozen lake or prairie."



Dr. H.O. Smith used his Rambler touring car to tow the glider up the bluffs north of the Minnesota River.