

# SanDiegö Air & Space Museum

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## Breaking News: First African American Pilot...

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Emory Conrad Malick was born in Seven Points, Pennsylvania on December 29, 1881, the third child of Darius and Susanna Malick. Having borne six children, Susanna died of typhoid fever in 1887, and Darius later remarried, ultimately fathering thirteen children. Malick grew up in Seven Points and nearby Sunbury but spent the majority of his adult life in Philadelphia. He remained a bachelor his whole life.

He designed his own glider planes which he flew across the Susquehanna River to a local farm that he worked at. Malick was a skilled carpenter and he assisted his father, also a professional carpenter, working in Harrisburg. In Harrisburg Malick and his father worked on the interior paneling of the Pennsylvania Railroad dining and sleeping cars.

Still, Malick's desire was to be an aviator. He joined the Pennsylvania Aero Club in 1910. He received his International Pilot's License in San Diego, California on March 20, 1912. In 1913 he was corresponding with the Pennsylvania Advertising Company about becoming their exhibition pilot. Malick became the first aviator in the area flying a Curtiss Bi-plane in August 1914. Later in 1914 Malick crashed into electrical wires while trying to land the Curtiss Bi-plane. He would continue to live in the Philadelphia making a living as an aviator, "barnstormer," aerial photographer, carpenter, and master tile-layer.

When the United States entered the First World War Malick registered for the draft but at thirty-seven years old he was not selected for service in the military. It is clear that if Malick had wanted to fly during the First World War that he would have been turned down. This was due to the fact that the military didn't accept African-American pilots. (This wouldn't change until the 1940s)

There is some debate if Malick established a taxi and pleasure flying business in Philadelphia known as "The Flying Dutchman Air Service." It is certainly possible that he did start this company, maybe even before the start of the First World War, but it is not known for sure. What is known is that he did fly for the company and also that a pilot from this company, Chief C. Alfred Anderson, would later be instrumental in the establishment of the Tuskegee Airmen during the Second World War.

While flying his own plane in 1928 he suffered an unfortunate accident. This ended Malick's flying days but his interest in aviation continued. He was often at the Sunbury Airport watching flying activity. He was asked on several occasions if he wanted to go on flights which he declined saying, "I had my fun and now I'm done."

Emory passed away in 1958 after slipping on ice.

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