

Martin County's Pioneering Pilot – Lloyd Alsworth

Sherburn native Lloyd Alsworth, affectionately known as “Pappy,” is generally considered to be the father of aviation in Martin County. He was born in 1906 and grew up on a farm in rural Sherburn. He farmed with his father and operated an airport on their farm with his brother. Alsworth took his first plane ride at a 1927 air show in Jackson, and was hooked on flying from that point forward. He learned to fly in a biplane owned by Clarence Siehl of Sherburn. In 1931, Alsworth and his brother bought their first plane together, an OX-5 Travelaire biplane that cost \$375.00. They used a hayfield on their father's farm as a landing strip, which was also used by many other pilots for miles around. This helped them to become acquainted with many of the early day pilots, from which they in turn acquired a great deal of knowledge about flying and airplanes.

Alsworth quit farming and joined the Civilian Training Corp during WW II. He was assigned to flight school and after a short training period began instructing enlisted personnel to become Air Force pilots. He trained fliers in the Twin Cities, Grand Rapids, Duluth, and Mankato. After being discharged, he moved back to Martin County where he started a commercial airport with a flight school that included GI training.

In 1945, he purchased a share of Clayton Dullard's flight school that was located in the Stade Airport in the southwest part of Fairmont. The airport was basically a converted cow pasture across from the Jolly Inn, now known as Tami's on The Ave. He became the airport manager and trained pilots there as well as doing some training in Sherburn. In 1949, the Fairmont Flying Service was moved to the site of the present airport. Shortly thereafter Alsworth purchased Dullard's interest in the business and became the sole owner.

Alsworth was active on many fronts, one of which involved his Fairmont Flying Service that operated an air taxi service. It flew primarily within a 300 mile radius; however, Alsworth had taken passengers as far as Atlantic City, New Jersey. He was also instrumental in convincing area officials to build the Fairmont Airport and also served as airport manager. In addition, he began crop dusting in 1947 and he began spraying for the Fairmont Canning Company in the early 1950's.

Alsworth was a uniquely talented individual that was actively involved in many aspects of aviation. He served as president of the Minnesota Airport Operators Association; he served as a flight examiner giving check rides to hundreds of pilots of commercial multi-engine planes and sea planes; he provided charter service for local businesses; and he flew an air ambulance service when needed. Obviously, aviation was an integral and

significant part of his life as evidenced by his dedicated service to the profession that included being the unpaid manager of the Fairmont Airport for over twenty-five years.

Although Alsworth's flying experiences are mostly positive, his family suffered a tragic loss when his two sons, James 19 and Gene 21, were both killed in airplane accidents in 1966.

Lloyd Alsworth was a respected and admired local citizen who had a positive impact on the many people that he encountered throughout his lifetime. He passed away in August of 1992 at the age of 85.

For more information on this topic, or to become a member, visit the Pioneer Museum in Fairmont.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF AIR COMMERCE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

N
STUDENT PILOT CERTIFICATE NO. 48607

This certifies that **LLOYD ALEXANDER ALSWORTH**
is rated as a Student Pilot

The holder was found physically qualified for
PRIVATE pilot, on **JUNE 9 1938**



The terms of this certificate include each and every provision of the currently effective Civil Air Regulations issued by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to law. Unless sooner suspended or revoked, this certificate expires **JUNE 9 1939** and shall be kept by the Student Pilot until taken up by a Bureau of Air Commerce Inspector.

By direction of the Secretary of Commerce.

Lloyd A Alsworth
SIGNATURE OF STUDENT PILOT

[Signature]
CHIEF, REGISTRATION SECTION

Any alteration of this certificate is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

THIS CERTIFIES that, prior to any solo flight under my supervision, the holder hereof was examined by me as to (his, her) knowledge of the provisions of the currently effective Civil Air Regulations 60, and (he, she) showed a satisfactory knowledge thereof, that (he, she) had not less than 8 hours of proper dual flight instruction and in my opinion is deemed competent to make (his, her) first solo flight under my supervision.

Date June 10, 1938

Leon R. Alsworth 32428
SIGNATURE OF INSTRUCTOR AND CERTIFICATE NO.

THIS CERTIFIES that the holder hereof this date made satisfactorily a first solo flight under my supervision in a certificated aircraft of Conventional type

(Land or water) Land type, ONE engine weight and engine classification.

Date Dec. 18, 1938

Leon R. Alsworth 32428
SIGNATURE OF INSTRUCTOR AND CERTIFICATE NO.

To be signed only by _____ a certificated instructor.

THE TERMS of this certificate include each and every provision of the currently effective Civil Air Regulations issued by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to law.

Any alteration of this certificate is punishable by fine or imprisonment.