

Abstract

While the flights of the Wright brothers over a century ago have enshrined their names in aeronautical history, only slightly less important are the lawsuits brought forth by the brothers in defense of their invention. From 1906 to 1917 the Wright brothers maintained a successful stranglehold on the development and production of the airplane in the United States. This paper examines that history, the ensuing litigation, and the impact that the Wright brothers actions had upon the readiness of the U.S. in World War I.