



The Urbana Free Library

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Chanute Air Force Base:  
Chanute Suites Guest Books

COLLECTION 200.019

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Ani Karagianis

**Creator/Corporate name:** Chanute Air Force Base

**Inclusive Dates:** 1963-1993, Bulk 1987-1993

**Physical Description:** 1 box, 1 linear foot

**Provenance:**

The Chanute Air Force Guest Books files were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives from the defunct Chanute Aerospace Museum upon their closure in 2015. The Chanute Aerospace Museum received these files from the Chanute Air Force Base after its closure in 1993.

**Access:**

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives at The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

Chanute trained over two million servicemen and women during its 76 years of operation. In addition, personnel from other branches of the Armed Forces, as well as allied students, were also selected to attend courses in the Technical School. The Chanute Suites served as a hotel on the base, hosting Air Force personnel as well as civilians, creating a meeting ground for servicemen, servicewomen, and civilians alike.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Consists of signed guest books from the Chanute Suites, welcome book materials, and guest books from special suites. Something interesting to note is the stay of Mr. and Mrs. Octave A. Chanute (series 1, item 1).

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged into two series. The first series, "Guest Books", is organized chronologically by date. The second series, "Special Suites" is the series with specific suite names, including Stratemeyer,



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Martin, Chief's, Gerhart, and Building 200, room B-125. This series is organized chronologically by date in the same box.

**Subject Terms:**

Chanute Air Force Base (Ill.)  
Chanute Air Force base (Ill.)—History  
Chanute Field (Ill.)—History  
Air Bases—Rantoul—History  
Rantoul (Ill.)  
Chanute Technical Training Center (U.S.)  
Gerhart, John K. (John Kohler), 1907-1981  
Martin, Frederick L. (Frederick LeRoy), 1882-1954  
Stratemeyer, George E., 1890-1969

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

**Series 1: Guest Books**

Item 1: (Bound Book): Visitor's Register (Apr 1963- Sep 1986)  
Item 2: (Bound Book): Guests (Feb 1982-Sep 1993)  
Item 3: (Bound Book): Guest Book (May 1986-Aug 1993)  
Item 4: (Bound Book): Guests of Chanute Air Force Base (Apr 1989-May 1991)  
Item 5: (Bound Book): Guests (Apr 1989-Aug 1992)  
Item 6: (Bound Book): Guests (Jan 1992-Aug 1993)  
Item 7: (Bound Book): Guests (Undated); Includes notes about guest's stays

**Series 2: Special Suites**

Folder 1: Chanute Suite Biographical and Photographic material about the suite's namesakes  
Item 8: (Bound Book): Guests of Chief's Suite (Nov 1980-Aug 1993)  
Item 9: (Bound Book): Guests, Stratemeyer Suite (Apr 1987- Sep 1993)  
Item 10: (Bound Book): Guests of Gerhart Suite (May 1987-Aug 1993)  
Item 11: (Bound Book): Guests of Bld 200, Room B-125 (Aug 1991-Sep 1993)