Guide to
MS-222: Lt. John M. Colestock ’65 Papers

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MS – 222: Lt. John M. Colestock ’65 Papers
(1 box, .15 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1960-1969
Bulk Dates: 1965-1969

Processed by Jeffrey Lauck ’18
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Provenance
Items collected by Susan Hill ’67 and donated to Special Collections in September 2017 along with items in MS-221 Cpt. Robert L. Morris ’66 Papers.

Historical and Biographical Note
Susan Hill (née Colestock) ’67 was the wife of Cpt. Robert L. Morris ’66 and the brother of Lt. John M. Colestock ’65, both of whom died in service during the Vietnam War. John M. Colestock was a biology major and member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity at Gettysburg College. During his senior year in 1965, he won the Student Affairs Committee Award. After graduating, he married fellow Gettysburgian Linda Young ’65 and joined the U.S. Navy as a Naval Aviator. Three years later, they had a son. In 1969, Lt. Colestock died during a mid-air collision over Virginia. He was interred at Gettysburg National Cemetery. Colestock was one of the over 58,000 U.S. servicemen who died during the Vietnam War and one of the thirteen Gettysburg College alumni who died in service during the War.

Scope and Content Notes
The collection includes photographs, newspaper clippings, and other documents related to the life of John M. Colestock ’65. Series 1 contains items from Colestock’s life before joining the U.S. Navy, while Series 2 includes all items from his service with the Navy until his death in 1969. Potential research interests lie in Gettysburg College’s Vietnam War connections, the personal history of Lt. John M. Colestock, and photographs from the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

Subjects
Vietnam War
Gettysburg College History (1960-1975)
Naval Aviation

Series Description
This collection is divided into two Series. **Series 1**: Civilian Life; and **Series 2**: Military Service.

**Series 1** consists of all items related to the life of John M. Colestock before he joined the U.S. Navy as a pilot.
**Series 2** consists of all items related to the military service and death of John M. Colestock.

**Box List**

**Box 1**

1-0 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

**Series 1 — Civilian Life**

1-1 Sports Accolades
   - Newspaper clipping (and photocopy thereof) on MAC Soccer Team
   - Photograph of Colsetock playing for Mercersburg Academy Baseball team

1-2 Gettysburg Commencement
   - Colestock and his future wife Linda at his commencement ceremony
   - Program from 1965 commencement ceremony

1-3 Wedding and Family
   - Photograph of the Colsetocks on their wedding day
   - Wedding invitation
   - Photograph of John, Linda, Stephen, and Aunt Minnie

**Series 2 — Military Service**

1-4 Induction into U.S. Navy
   - Letter to parents from U.S. Navy from when Colestock became a Naval Aviator
   - Photograph of Colestock at Naval Aviator induction ceremony
   - “A Navy Flyer’s Creed”

1-5 Photos from Service in U.S. Navy
   - Photograph from Naval Air Station Meridian in Meridian, Mississippi
   - Photograph of a Grumman A-6 Intruder
   - Photograph of Colestock printed in April, 1969

1-6 Items Related to Death
   - Newspaper and Gettysburg Bulletin clippings (and photocopies thereof) on death and funeral
   - Funeral Bulletin and insert

**Related Collections**

MS – 036: [Radical Pamphlets, 1965 - 1975](#)

MS – 044: [Stephen H. Warner Collection](#)

MS – 051: [The Letters of Richard A. Moore to his Wife during the Vietnam War](#)

MS – 069: [The Papers of John W. Vannordsall](#)

MS – 221: Cpt. Robert L. Morris ’66 Papers