

# The Mary Ann



## First Yale Unit Documentary Revs Up!

Welcome to the first edition of *The Mary Ann*, the newsletter of *The Millionaires' Unit: America's Pioneer Pilots of the Great War*.

Since the gathering at the Yale Club in New York last March, Darroch Greer and I have been crafting plans to film a documentary about The First Yale Unit. We began by putting together an advisory board. Marc Wortman, author of *The Millionaires' Unit*, was an obvious first choice. He introduced us to Erl Gould "Puck" Purnell, the grandson of Erl Gould (#68) and himself a former Naval Aviator. David Lawrence, whose father George Lawrence (#89) sunk a U-Boat during WWI, and Danny Davison, son of Trubee Davison, have graciously agreed to serve as advisors, too.

In addition, Sunny Toulmin, the niece of Albert Sturtevant (#77), has provided lots of information about the Sturtevant family—documents, letters, and photos. If you have access to similar material, we invite you to do the same. Serendipitously, Sunny and I discovered that she and my mother, Mary Vorys King, daughter of John M. Vorys (#73), knew each other in high school. They have now struck up a nice correspondence and friendship.

We have also been fortunate to benefit from the design talents of Burr Purnell, Puck's son. It was Burr who designed

this newsletter and our brand identity.

In the process of creating our film title and the newsletter name, we looked at over one hundred names. In the end we circled around to the beginning and settled on our choices. We hope you like them as much as we do.

In the coming months, we expect to complete the budget for this documentary film. Those who are aware of our ambition have been extremely encouraging. But, there is much to do, including creating a not-for-profit organization and raising a considerable amount of money.

Darroch and I are very excited about producing and directing this epic and historical film. The story of the First Yale Unit is awe inspiring and seeing the film will be as well. We hope that you will join us in our enthusiasm. While we will be in touch through *The Mary Ann*, please feel free to contact us directly, especially if you have artifacts or memorabilia about the First Yale Unit and its brave young aviators.

Sincerely,

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### Who Was Mary Ann?

When Trubee Davison attempted to convince his father H.P. Davison of the value of the Unit, he conspired with flight instructor David McCulloch to fly a Curtiss F-Boat to Peacock Point for a (hopefully) impressive display. Although H.P. ignored this initial gesture, the Mary Ann (as the Curtiss F-Boat was affectionately known) faithfully served the Unit through its entire training period in the U.S.



THE MILLIONAIRES' UNIT  
*America's Pioneer Pilots  
of the Great War*