



# The Mary Ann

## Web Preview

This issue of the *Mary Ann* features images from the website for *The Millionaires' Unit: Documentary Film* which continues to be under construction.

The site is divided into two main areas. One is *First Yale Unit History* which contains extensive biographical information, a historical timeline and imagery from the period. The second area focuses on the film and filmmakers. It also tracks the progress of the film's production.



The home page shown above contains an introductory flash video and links to the rest of the site.



**Allan W. Ames**

Naval Aviator #67. Allan "Alphy" Ames won his Y in football at Yale and was one of the original 12 members of the First Yale Unit. Ames served at Bayshore, Fort Worth (advanced training) and Hampton Roads where he trained in H-12 and H-16 aircraft. In Washington D.C., Ames helped reconnoiter supplies for the Northern Bombing Group and reviewed the U.S. manufactured DH-4 at the Wright factory. There he flew the Hispano JN, the DH-4, the Vought, and the 220 Spad. Ames also served overseas at Naval Operations HQ in London and surveyed air stations in Europe.



**Henry P. Davison**

Naval Aviator #72. Henry P. "Harry" Davison was on the baseball, football and squash teams at Yale. Davison, the younger brother of Unit founder F. Trubee Davison, was best friends with David S. Ingalls. An original Unit member, Davison served in the U.S. and overseas delivering the notorious Caproni bombers for the Northern Bombing Group in the death-defying journey over the Alps.



**John V. Farwell**

Naval Aviator #76. John V. Farwell was Captain of the Freshman and Varsity track teams in 1916 and 1917. One of the original 12 Unit members, Farwell later served with the Second Yale Unit at Buffalo and became a Squadron Commander at Pensacola NAS. Farwell served as an ordinance officer at Troy, France, and was in Paris among massive jubilant French crowds that flooded the Place de la Concorde for four days after the Armistice was signed.



**Albert J. Ditman**

Albert J. Ditman was one of only two non-Yale men who were original members of the Unit. An employee at the offices of J.P. Morgan & Co., he had previous flying experience before joining the Unit. Ditman served at Bayshore, Rockaway, Cape May and Anacostia in capacity of test pilot, flying instructor and ordinance officer.

THE MILLIONAIRES' UNIT NEWSLETTER  
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Courtesy of the New York Public Library www.nypl.org

## F. Trubee Davison

(pictured here with sister Alice)  
Originator and founder of the First Yale Unit, Trubee Davison was only 19 years old when, in 1915, he volunteered to drive for the American Ambulance Service in Paris. Travelling companion Robert Bacon, a former U.S. Secretary of State and a J.P. Morgan business associate, told Trubee of his work with the famed Lafayette Escadrille. Inspired by the fighting French aviators he met and hearing of Bacon's plans to organize a new squadron, Trubee's own entrepreneurial spirit took over. "That put the bug in my bonnet," he said. Back at Yale in the fall, Trubee poured it into the ear of Bob Lovett, and the idea for the First Yale Unit was born.

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

# Timeline

1915

1916

1917

1918

	UNIT EVENTS	WORLD EVENTS
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Vorys wins Ten Ecyk speaking prize.</li> <li>Trubee Davison purchases F-Boats for Unit training</li> </ul> <p></p> <p>Trubee Davison in F-Boat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Germany launches unrestricted U-boat warfare</li> <li>"Peace without Victory" speech by President Wilson</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trubee and Harry Davison offer unit to Secy. of Navy Daniels</li> <li>H.P. Davison dissuades Trubee from acting unilaterally in move to Palm Beach – says wait until Navy is ready</li> <li>Trubee meets with Lt. Towers (Naval Aviator #2) - Towers suggests Unit join Naval Reserve</li> <li>Yale Aero Club begins recruiting members on campus</li> <li>100 Yale undergrads apply to Aero Club for membership</li> <li>Unit officially expanded to 28 members.</li> <li>Trubee made member of Committee on Aeronautics by FDR</li> <li>Trubee wires Lovett "we're off"</li> </ul> <p></p> <p>Franklin D. Roosevelt at the Philadelphia Navy Yard 1917 courtesy of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Digital Archives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. severs diplomatic ties with Germany</li> <li>Britain exposes German plot to form alliance with Mexico against U.S.</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit called by Lovett and Davison to New London to enlist</li> <li>Unit members receive ensign commission in U.S.N.R. (pay is \$135/month)</li> <li>J.P. Morgan &amp; Co. contributes \$100,000 to Unit</li> <li>Colonel Thompson raises additional \$145,000 from wealthy 'subscribers'</li> <li>Unit travels to Palm Beach to stay at Breakers then Salt Air hotel</li> </ul> <p></p> <p>SALT AIR HOTEL Photo credit: The Florida Center for Instructional Technology, University of South Florida</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wilson arms U.S. merchantmen by executive order</li> <li>Tsar Nicholas II abdicates due to Russian Revolution</li> <li>Wilson calls for a national army to be "raised and maintained exclusively by selective draft".</li> </ul>

## Extended Bio Excerpts

### David S. Ingalls – Naval Aviator #85



Every group needs a mascot, a little brother, someone to tag along and get kidded. For the First Yale Unit it was the "Baby Daredevil," David "Crock" Ingalls, known for his penchant for pipe smoking and smashing up the family autos. He was also the most accomplished flier of the Unit and the Navy's only verified ace of the Great War – all before he was 20-years-old. He did not remain the mascot very long...

...Next, Ingalls joined what was probably the largest aerial raid of the war to date on a vast German aerodrome. In a dawn raid they attacked from sea, dropping down to 150 feet, catching the Germans asleep as they sped overhead at 125 MPH. Ingalls' tracers strafed Fokkers warming up on the runway. His first payload of bombs missed, but he turned back around. By now the field was an inferno of burning fuel, ammo, and aircraft. The strafing Camels were thick above the fray, silencing every battery that returned fire. Not a single plane was lost...

### Albert Dillon Sturtevant - Naval Aviator #77



Born and raised in Mt. Pleasant, an early subdivision of Washington, D.C., he attended public schools, then Phillips Academy in Andover MA., graduated from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School, Class of 1916. He began graduate work in law at Harvard, but set it aside due to his commitment to the Unit and the nation in WWI...

In December 1917, Al was ordered to the air station at Felixstowe, England, where he became a much sought after second pilot on the H-12 and H-16 aircraft used in patrolling the waters of the North Sea.

The maneuvers became known as the *Spider Web* patrol. During off hours Vorys and Sturtevant attended parties at the Felix Hotel, where in his dress uniform, Al cut a dashing figure on the dance floor and attracted the eye of more than a few of the young women in attendance.

Courtesy Phillips Academy Archive

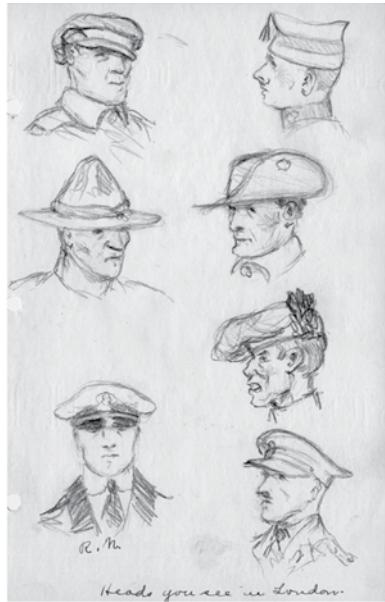
## Gallery Preview

### Drawings of John M. Vorys

At Yale John Vorys served as an associate editor for The Yale Record. His illustrations for the campus magazine often had a comic romantic bent. A young woman gently buries her face into the chest of her tuxedoed date who slides a protective arm around her; the caption reads: “-Naw. They’re dancing.” A fashionably dressed young woman with a feathered hat and veil greets her leather capped football hero as he asks, “Did you bring me that ear you promised me?” These scenes along with humorous cartoon sketches of Charlie Chaplin and fancy baseball plays designed to “Get Heavy with the Grandstand” are only part of Vorys’ prolific output. Vorys was an acute observer of the world around him and these observations informed both real and imagined scenes – a quality that would surface again in the illustrations he made while training with the First Yale Unit and during his service in WWI.



In this illustration of a couple attending a Yale baseball game, Vorys uses full black shadow woodcut technique to create the illusion of full sunlight



**“Heads you see in London”** Upon arrival in London, Sturtevant and Vorys made their way to London headquarters to receive further orders. In his war journal Vorys wrote: “Soldiers everywhere, English, Canadian, New Zealand, and Australian, Belgians, all kinds and conditions, the swank officers, the men just from or going to the front, looking like a human caravan, with haversacks and bedding and a lot of extra bags and their rifles and helmets and the wounded, convalescents, in blue suits with red ties, and then the men back in uniform, with the band on their arm, limping, walking with canes, and with faces and arms and things bandaged up.”



**“Stand-to on the St. Paul coming over”** reads Vorys’ inscription. As they embarked on the journey overseas, Vorys noted in his journal: “Al and I paced the deck and thought about not only how little chance there was to come back but also how little chance there was of getting over...” At the time of their crossing in Sept. 1917, the German Navy had unleashed unrestricted submarine attacks on all allied shipping. In the drawing, with the deck gun having just been loaded, all eyes keenly scan the waters for any sign of a U-boat.



THE MILLIONAIRES' UNIT  
Documentary Film

FIRST YALE UNIT HISTORY

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## The Filmmakers



Darroch Greer  
Writer-Director

"The really interesting thing about the story is that these young, impressionable, inspirational men, some of them still teenagers, were coming of age at the same time that America was coming of age. The First World War defined America as a power on the world stage and what our destiny was going to be for the 20th century."

- Darroch Greer



Ron King  
Writer-Director

"Discovering this story about my grandfather as a flier in World War One was fascinating to me...I think there's a time in everyone's life when you want to look back and learn more about your heritage"

"They came from different backgrounds but the thing that was common to all of them is that they felt like they needed to do something."

- Ron King

## "That's a Wrap"

As work continues on development of the web site, script and budget for *The Millionaires' Unit: America's Pioneer Pilots of the Great War*, we have found ourselves very involved with our paying day jobs. Darroch is down in the trenches helping to produce ten hour television series entitled: *Moguls and Movie Stars: A History of Hollywood* for Wilkman Productions and Ron is producing several segments for City Explorer TV in cities across the country. Ron is also excited to have begun a new relationship with Footagehead.com who will represent his stock videography work featuring shoots in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Grand Canyon, Big Sur and Ireland. We are pushing forward the web site launch as soon as we can and are convinced that this will be the best way to reach our audience and supporters. Again, thanks for your support. Please let us know what you think of the look of the web site!

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