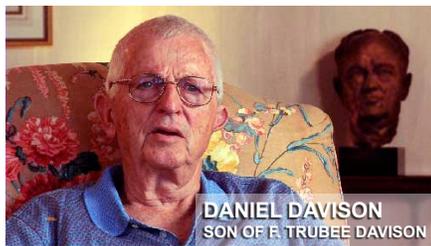


The Mary Ann



Documentary Film Production Kicks Off!

On a weekend in late June this past summer, film production began on *The Millionaires' Unit* documentary at Peacock Point, Long Island, the same location where, in the summer of 1916, F. Trubee Davison gathered together the first 12 members of the First Yale Unit. Daniel and Harry Davison, son and grandson of Trubee, graciously opened their homes and gave the filmmakers two extraordinary interviews. The Davisons also made available an extensive group of archival photographs and documents that give new insights into the time, place and character of the people and events of the First Yale Unit. We are indebted to the Davisons for their ongoing contributions to the project and for two grand lunches shared with Mrs. Davison.



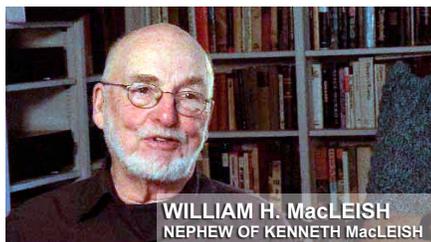
DANIEL DAVISON
SON OF F. TRUBEE DAVISON



HENRY P. DAVISON
GRANDSON OF F. TRUBEE DAVISON

EFFICIENCY IN FILMMAKING

Following the weekend at Peacock Point, the film crew of two was reduced by half. Before returning to Los Angeles to continue his ongoing producing duties on



WILLIAM H. MacLEISH
NEPHEW OF KENNETH MacLEISH

Moguls and Movie Stars: A History of Hollywood for Turner Classic Movies, Darroch shot some atmospheric footage in the Wall Street area. Ron traveled to Hammond, NY, near the Canadian border, where he interviewed his uncle, Martin Vorys (son of John M. Vorys), who reflected on his father's artwork, humor and experience while serving with the Unit. Next, Ron spent two days at the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale.

Dozens of photos, correspondence, business records, glass slides, maps and first person accounts related to the Unit are held in the F. Trubee Davison Papers at the library. From Yale, Ron traveled to Simsbury, CT, to interview Puck Purnell about his grandfather and Unit member, Erl Gould. Puck and his wife Joanne generously invited Ron to stay in their home for two nights and provided meals and tours of their work places to boot! Heading northwest, Ron drove deep into the lush woodlands near Charlemont, MA, to interview William MacLeish, nephew of Unit member Kenneth MacLeish. In addition to the interview, Mr. MacLeish read two beautiful poems about Kenney written by his father, the renowned

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Photo Courtesy Roger I. Sheely & Lawrence D. Sheely

Kenneth MacLeish

Kenneth MacLeish, brother of Archibald MacLeish, was perhaps the most talented of all the Unit pilots. By July 1918 he had flown, by his own count, 12 different types of machines.

MacLeish served with both U.S. and British squadrons, and was serving as chief pilot and aeroplane tester at Eastleigh, England, when Bob Lovett requested him as a squadron commander of the Northern Bombing Group. Though honored by the offer, MacLeish asked Lovett directly to help him get to the front to fly in a fighter squadron.

In October 1918, less than a month before the Armistice, MacLeish took the place of David Ingalls in No. 213 Squadron, RAF and, on his second combat air patrol, was shot down and killed over Schoore, Belgium.

Source: The First Yale Unit, Naval Aviation 1916-1919 by Ralph D. Paine



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

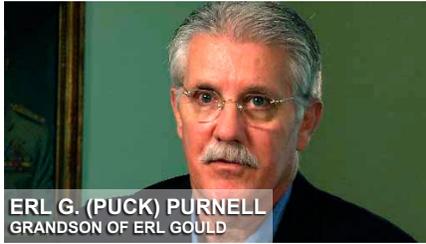
poet Archibald MacLeish. Next up, Ron traveled to West Hampton, Long Island, to interview David Lawrence, son of Unit flyer George Franklyn “Lotta” Lawrence. Prior to the interview, the Lawrences invited Ron to accompany them on an early morning bike ride – before breakfast! David also contributed some wonderful photos of his father in uniform and some rare group shots at Yale featuring several Unit members and a photo at Groton with F.T. Davison, Reg Coombe, Oliver James, and G.F. Lawrence. Darroch and Ron also had the good fortune to re-connect with several old friends in the New York area who contributed companionship and lodging throughout the week of production. All in all it was a very productive kick-off for the film.

FUNDRAISING

We find ourselves also kicking-off our major fundraising drive for the film in the middle of a recession. No matter. The story of commitment, sacrifice and patriotism exemplified by the Unit is a story that the country needs to hear, and we are moving forward under the banner of our tax-exempt foundation. We have begun researching applicable grants and are preparing a Power Point presentation to accompany the various visual media we have collected and put together. More friends and family have come forward to contribute to the “seed money” fund, which indeed has made it possible for us to launch the web site and complete our first week of film production. As we finalize our budget, we will be asking for funding in blocks to allow us to move forward with each step of production. We have another round of interviews that we would like to conduct, and we are hoping to begin filming with WWI-era planes in the winter/spring. These stages will require our first major infusion of funds. We hope you will consider making a pledge and we ask that you forward this newsletter to anyone who you think would be interested in the project and might consider making a contribution. Details on how to contribute can be found on the website.

NEW WEB CONTENT

Please visit the Millionaires’ Unit website at www.millionairesunit.org to check out the new content we’ve recently posted.



ERL G. (PUCK) PURNELL
GRANDSON OF ERL GOULD



DAVID B. LAWRENCE
SON OF GEORGE F. LAWRENCE

The Film:

- William MacLeish reads his father’s poem “On a Memorial Stone.”

Photos:

- New photo of Unit member Kenneth MacLeish contributed by Roger I. Sheely and film supporter and author Lawrence Sheely. Roger’s father, US Navy Petty Officer Irving E. Sheely, flew as observer and gun layer with Kenneth MacLeish throughout much of 1918.
- New photo of Unit member Archibald “Chip” McIlwaine contributed by film supporter Ken Spooner.
- New photo of Unit member George “Lotta” Lawrence contributed by his son David Lawrence.



George F. “Lotta” Lawrence had served with the Yale Battery prior to joining the Unit. During WWI, he served at Killingholme, England, where he had encounters with German subs and zeppilins.
Photo courtesy David B. Lawrence.

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