

The Historic Woodland Ferry

Isaac and his younger brother, Jacob Jr. inherited the Cannon Ferry. The brothers were shrewd businessmen and became very wealthy. By 1816, they owned almost 5000 acres of land, operating not only the ferry, but stores, warehouses, and houses. They owned slaves and a number of commercial vessels that traveled to Baltimore. They became the loan sharks of the day, lending money, extending credit,

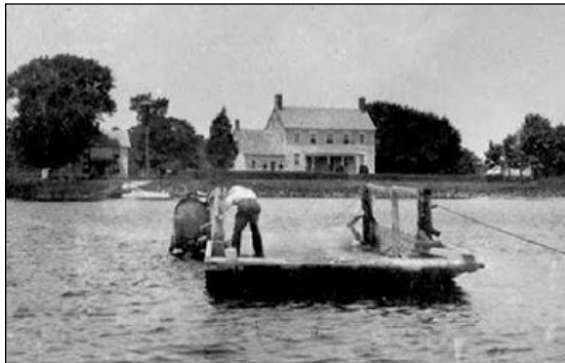


Photo: Courtesy of Delaware Public Archives

extracting fines, and confiscating goods and properties from their debtors. They were often ruthless in collecting debts by foreclosing on properties, even taking cooking pots or beds! Needless to say, the Cannon brothers were despised as exploitive thugs.

Legend surrounds Cannon's Ferry with other nefarious dealings. Cousin, Jesse Cannon and his wife, Patty ran a slave trading business in Sussex County,



Photo: The Tina Fallon, www.wikimediacommons.com<http://www.wikimediacommons.com>

kidnapping both free blacks and slaves. They are reputed to have made use of the ferry to carry their captives to ships on the Chesapeake for transport to slave dealers in the South. No documented evidence exists to prove this claim.

Hatred of the Cannon brothers

Author and Genealogist, Sandie Gerken lives in Dagsboro, DE. As a native Sussex Countian, local history is one of her passions. Retired now, she devotes her time to genealogy research (her greatest passion since 1978), watercolor painting, grandchildren, soccer for kids with disabilities, books, and things creative and historical. She recently authored the book Memories of the Clayton Theatre as a fundraiser to help the Clayton go digital. She is now exploring her writing skills with local history articles for High Tide News.



continued until 1843. A sensational end came to their shady business practices. On April 10, 1843, Jacob, Jr. was at the ferry dock, having just returned from appealing to the Governor for protection against threats from people, whom he claimed he had aided. He was approached by Owen O'Day, who accused Jacob of stealing property, supposedly a gum tree branch, containing a hive of honey. In broad daylight, Owen shot Jacob with his musket. As Owen fled, Jacob stumbled home. A doctor found over 27 pieces of musket shot in Jacob's chest, but supposedly no life-threatening injury. He was given a large dose of laudanum (an opiate) and fell into a deep sleep from which he never awoke.

Owen O'Day escaped west. Delaware's Governor offered a reward of \$500 for his capture as Jacob's murderer. A requisition for his return from Ohio as a fugitive was issued on August 7, 1843. Owen may have never been captured. He was never prosecuted. In a further twist to this saga, Isaac Cannon took sick one month after Jacob's death and died on May 16, 1843 in his bed. Both brothers are buried with their mother in the church cemetery near the ferry.

Their sister, Lurana C. Boling inherited the Cannon businesses. After her death in 1844, her family continued to operate the ferry, using a chain cable system to guide the scow. After a long period of decline, Sussex County took over the operation of the Cannon Ferry in 1883. By this date, the community had been named "Woodland". The county purchases a new wooden ferryboat and charged no fee to cross the river. This one-car ferry was outfitted with a Model-T Ford engine in the 1930s to

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power the boat along the cables.

The Delaware Department of Transportation began overseeing the ferry in 1935, purchasing a new wooden boat. By 1958, the old ferry, known as the Patty Cannon became unserviceable due to increased traffic and failure to meet U.S. Coast Guard standards. The state seriously considered a bridge instead of refurbishing or replacing the ferry. The cost of a bridge, plus the uproar of replacing an "old beloved tradition", led to the purchase an all-steel, diesel engine ferryboat.

The new boat cost \$50,000 and went into service in 1961. It was named the Virginia C. after the wife of the state highway commissioner, Dallas Culver. By the 1990s, this ferry had required so many expensive repairs and the wharves were so deteriorated that service became undependable.

In 2007, the state began a \$3.1 million upgrade, building a new, wider ferryboat. The project included improvements to the docks. The current ferry, the Tina Fallon, named for the long-time Seaford state representative, was put into service on October 29, 2008. The old Virginia C. was auctioned online to a Maryland company for a possible use as a barge.

The Tina Fallon can accommodate six vehicles. It is manned by USCG licensed captains. During the first few years, the Tina Fallon was out of service more that it was operational. Oil leaks and other problems with the two thrusters, and snapped underwater cables were time-consuming repairs. Finger pointing and contractual disputes resulted in an expensive, frustrating ordeal. But, now the ferry crosses the Nanticoke daily seven days a week with Thursday mornings set aside for routine maintenance.

In 1973, the Woodland Ferry was



Men at Ferry, Courtesy of Hagley Museum, F. R. Zebby Collection

placed on the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing its historical and cultural value. It is a part of the Nanticoke Heritage Byway. The Woodland Ferry keeps history alive at this river crossing. Take the short trip on the ferry for an interesting way to explore the river and its scenery. The best things in life ARE free!

SOURCES:

"Remembering Sussex County's Most Notorious River Crossing", Dustin & Mariya Oldfather, www.theoldfathergroup.com/blog.

Remembering Sussex County, James Diehl, History Press, 2009, p.98-99.

Governor's Register 1674-1851, Vol. 1, p. 407-410.

Department of Transportation brochure, "Woodland Ferry: Crossing the Nanticoke River from 1740s to Present".

"State to Sell 25-Year-Old Patty Cannon Ferry at Auction", Wilmington Morning News, March 2, 1960.

"Woodland Ferry is new albatross for DelDot", Wilmington News Journal, April 19, 2011

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MORE ON THE WOODLAND FERRY

- A *DAYS GONE BY* museum featuring history of the ferry and the area is operated by Jack Knowles on the Woodland Ferry Road. Appts: 302-629-9889
- A fictionalized account of the Cannons and the ferry can be found in the 1884 novel by George Alfred Townsend, called THE ENTAILED HAT.
- A woman and her baby were drowned in 1938 when their car fell off the back of the ferry. Another man drowned in a similar accident in the 1940s.
- "James Hemphill's Journal" an 1802 account of a harrowing journey on the Cannon Ferry is described in a 1948 Delaware History publication of the Delaware Historical Society.
- William Morgan in his "Diary and Autobiography 1780-1857" Delaware History Magazine, Fall/Winter 1980 wrote in 1843 on the deaths of Jacob and Isaac Cannon. He referred to their "cheating, oppressing and distressing, selling and taking.....they ly in the graves unlamented and unmourned". Morgan lived in the only house at Cannon's Ferry that was NOT owned by the Cannon brothers.

Village Improvement Association and Rehoboth Beach Library Host Art Exhibit Art Exhibit Opening, September 21

In conjunction with the Rehoboth Beach Public Library, The Village Improvement Association will continue the series of art exhibits begun last January. On Thursday, September 21 from 5 – 7 p.m. an opening reception will be held in the conference room at the library to present a collection of art works by VIA members. ARTS chairman, Faith Duncan views this exhibit as a continuation of the presentations Ethel Leach, the dean of Delaware women painters, held at the VIA building during the 1920's.

In those days, Ethel Leach, a prominent student of Howard Pyle, established her studio in the Pines adjacent to Henlopen Acres. Other artists and friends frequently gathered at her home during the summer months. Ethel, who had become a VIA member, encouraged them to display their works at shows she and the Arts Chairman organized together. In the manner of

Ethel Leach, Faith Duncan, an artist herself, has encouraged her friends and fellow members at the VIA to share their artistic creations with the public. Known local artists such as Fay Kempton, Joanne DeFiore, and Carmela Coleman will be represented along with more than a dozen others. Most art works will be offered for sale.

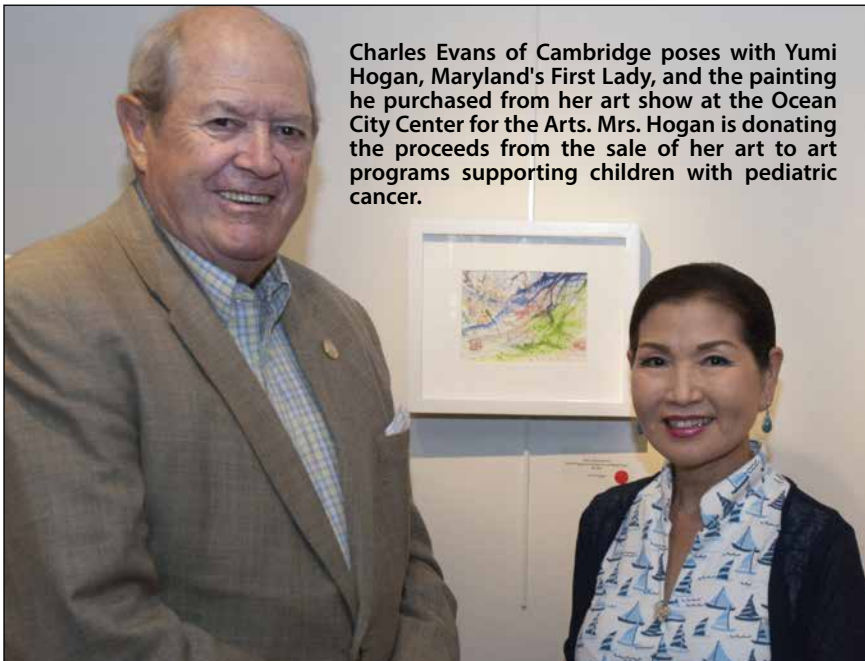
This event is one of a series that has been planned by the Village Improvement Association to expand awareness of the Library and its offerings. The premiere exhibition last January featured a collection of watercolor paintings from the Rehoboth Art League's permanent collection. It was followed by a selection of photos from the Coastal Camera Club and an exciting display of Venetian photos and masks by the fifth graders at Rehoboth Elementary School. Two more will follow this fall.



Fay Kempton with her watercolor titled "Morning Post"



Above: left to right: Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League of Ocean City; Yumi Hogan, Maryland's First Lady; and Julie Madden, Interim Executive Director of the Maryland State Arts Council, in front of one of Mrs. Hogan's paintings during the First Lady's appearance on August 18 to close her art show at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. On August 18, Maryland's First Lady, Yumi Hogan, returned to the Ocean City Center for the Arts to close her two-month-long art show.



Charles Evans of Cambridge poses with Yumi Hogan, Maryland's First Lady, and the painting he purchased from her art show at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. Mrs. Hogan is donating the proceeds from the sale of her art to art programs supporting children with pediatric cancer.

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The attached photo shows Fay Kempton with her watercolor painting titled "Morning Post". Soon after arriving in the Rehoboth Beach area, Fay was walking along Rehoboth Streets and spotted this scene. It represented the calm and peace for which she was looking. Wanting to capture the moment, she went home and painted it. Her painting is the

cornerstone of our exhibit.

The reception and exhibit ion are free and open to the public. The exhibit will continue through mid- October and will be open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. – 1 :00 p.m. except on Tues. when it is open from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. The conference room is on the second floor of the Library.

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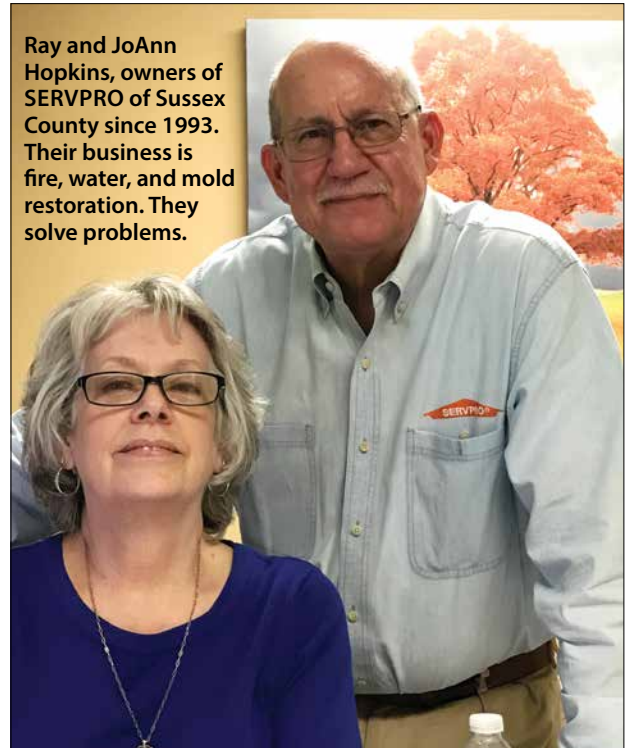
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Tips to Keep Your Landscape Vibrant Well Into Fall

Don't despair that summer is winding down, you can still have a vibrant landscape that you will be able to enjoy well into the fall. Here is a quick late-summer upkeep guide to keep your outdoor living space beautiful. The hot summer weather can take a toll on your lawn causing problem areas from low water supply, insects, or disease. Identify any trouble spots and address them accordingly to prevent the issue from spreading. When mowing, cut "just enough;" longer grass can provide insulation and also reduce water loss. In addition to your lawn, water your garden regularly, but don't drown your plants, which can cause rot. Many of us have seen late summer landscaping

that looks overgrown. To avoid this, lightly prune shrubs, pull weeds from the roots, clear debris from beds, and deadhead your flowers, both annuals and perennials. In fact, this is a great time for cut flowers, so bring some inside for decorating. In addition to the way your landscaping looks now, it's also time to think ahead. By mid to late August, stop fertilizing roses, this gives them a chance to wind down before winter. However, continue to fertilize Chrysanthemums and other fall blooming plants. This is also the time to plant flower bulbs. While most of your efforts will not appear in all their glory until next spring, there are a few fall flowering

bulbs like the autumn crocus that will produce blooms all autumn long. Remember to dump any standing water to prevent breeding mosquitos. Remove fallen fruit from trees to avoid rot and disease. If you compost, continue to add and turn your compost and only use healthy plant cuttings. Keeping on top of things now will ensure a smooth, easy transition into fall. Next month we will turn our sights to seeding, aeration, and preparing for the cooler weather to come.



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This is not your Father's Vietnam

By Vincent Paez



I am writing this in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon, Vietnam. This was the headquarters for our military operations forty-five years ago. I grew up hearing stories of the war and know many veterans who served and survived. I also remember hearing about many family members of my friends who never made it back. It was a controversial time with a lot of emotion. I cannot imagine the challenges our soldiers had to face, while operating in this incredible heat and humidity. Most of all, this place is so very far away from home, which I am sure added to the challenges of our men in uniform. The city was named after the revolutionary leader, who led the Vietnamese during the war.

What a different place it is today. While the government is still communist, you would not know it from all the commercial energy that takes place here. Vietnam, like China, have developed a version of communism that allows for people to make money if they work hard and invites foreigners to enjoy tourism and even do business, the way I am doing this week. The people are buzzing around in scooters all day, living their busy lives, and also taking some time for cultural enjoyment. There are tall buildings and five-star hotels. In fact, our hotel offered an airport pickup service in a beautiful Mercedes Benz. I must also say that the service is great and the people are extremely friendly.

This is my third trip to Vietnam in seven years. My first visit was in 2010 also to Ho Chi Minh City. When I arrived, my neck was sore from the long airplane trip, so after checking in to the beautiful hotel, I decided to get a massage. The hotel spa recommended a hot oil massage, and I accepted. It was fabulous, and any stiffness in my neck was gone. I showered, dressed and went out to dinner with our company's Vietnamese colleagues. We all ordered



Vincent Paez playing a *dan tranh*, a Vietnamese string instrument.

sea snails as an appetizer and Heineken beer. After two sips of the beer, I felt the restaurant dining room starting to spin. I became dizzy and immediately thought that someone slipped me a drug in my beer. For the first time in my life, I vomited and passed out in a restaurant. When I came to, I started to feel great again. It seemed that my body just needed to expel whatever toxin it had in it, albeit in an embarrassing situation. All of my colleagues were

around me with very concerned looks on their faces. I apologized for having made a scene in a public place, and commented that it must have been the sea snails. Then, my Vietnamese colleague asked me an amazing question.

"Vincent, did you have a hot oil massage today?"

"Why yes," I replied in amazement, "but what does that have to do with anything?" I asked.

"Well, oftentimes, the first thing Americans and Europeans do, when they arrive here in Vietnam is to get a hot oil massage to recover from the long flight. It seems that the hot oil opens up your pores and exposes the body to our

air. There is something in the air here in Vietnam that affects some westerners, when they do this, and they get ill for a brief time, like you just did," he explained.

"Amazing!" I said. "I wish they told us about that on the plane or in the guidebook."

My colleagues helped me to the car and we went back to the hotel, so that I could clean up and rest. I went on the internet and looked for any information about such an effect on Americans, but I found nothing. I also checked last week, before my trip started, and still I could find no information on this. But it happened, and my Vietnamese colleague called it perfectly.

We all had the following day off, so that we could get over our jet lag, before our busy work schedule. So, we decided to go to the Cu Chi tunnels. This is a museum, where the Vietnamese show the world how they used thousands of miles of tunnels to win the Vietnam war. Tunnels were everywhere, including running below our military bases. They built the tunnel system over thirty years, starting during the French occupation of the country. The entrances to the tunnels were so small, that only the Vietnamese could fit, preventing any American soldier from climbing inside. The museum also exhibits how they used tires from our vehicles to make their sandals, how they used unexploded American bombs to make land mines, and how they set dangerous traps for our soldiers. Most of the other tourists were Americans like me, and we

Author, **Vincent Paez** is a chemist and international businessman. He has a B.S. in Chemistry from Stony Brook University and an M.B.A. from UCLA. He speaks five languages and has lived/worked on four continents for three Fortune 500 companies. He is also a passionate musician and loves the music scene, especially in the Ocean City area. He lives in Ocean City. He has two sons attending Florida State University. ... "Go 'Noles!" He is married to a wonderful girl from Iowa, Sherri.



just looked at each other eerily, as we watched their patriotic movie about how they won the war against us.

Once that visit was out of the way, we went to tour the city. We were amazed at the number of scooters running through the city streets so close together like a school of fish, all turning the same way at the same time, and all stopping and going at the same time. Crossing the street in Ho Chi Minh City is like taking your life in your own hands. I have been instructed to just cross, when I think the time is right and not to flinch or hesitate. I have been told that the scooter riders will accommodate and go around me, but there are so many of them, that my heart jumps out of my chest every time I do it.

My second trip to Vietnam was to Hanoi, the capital. I found this a very developed city, like Ho Chi Minh City, but with even more Vietnamese culture. Our team went to see a musical show of water puppets. Imagine sitting down in a theater, just as beautiful and comfortable as any small opera theater in our country, only this theater had a pond as a stage. The music started, and, from below the water, puppets appeared and acted and sang to live Vietnamese orchestra music, while telling a story of love and adventure. I was fascinated at the complexity of the moves and the lovely music on the dan tranh, a Vietnamese string instrument, and other parts of the orchestra.

On this trip, I am staying only in Ho Chi Minh City to help organize a food safety conference. I am also a presenter. Vietnam exports billions of dollars of seafood to the USA. The US FDA, who is responsible for food imports, has new rules to comply with for such importations, and the conference will teach the Vietnamese food industry people how to comply with the new rules. I do intend to eat the local seafood and try to do some sightseeing. But I can guarantee you that I will not be getting a hot oil massage!

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Village Improvement Association to Host Annual *Art of Accessorizing* Event

Submitted by Kathy Yoho

The Village Improvement Association (VIA) will have one of its most successful and popular events, *"Art of Accessorizing"* for the fifth year on Tuesday, October 17 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the VIA clubhouse.



Left to right: VIA Art of Accessorizing Chairperson-Carol Hall, Funky Lady Store Owner-Madge Paterson, and VIA Member-Monica Maiese.

Each year approximately 175 people enjoy the occasion and have made it an evening not to be missed.

This year's event will feature local merchants: Browseabout Books, Coolspring Cottage, Deanna's, Funky Lady, Simply Dressed, Village Gift Gallery, and Water Lily who will showcase an array of specially chosen pieces from fabulous scarfs, unique jewelry, seasonal tops, exclusive purses and many other interesting accessories for purchase.

The event will be held at the VIA Clubhouse located at Boardwalk and Grenoble Place, Rehoboth Beach. Tickets are \$10 and include an evening of glamour and style while enjoying a light bite and sipping a glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage. Ticket sales are limited and often sellout, so advance



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purchase is suggested. For tickets, visit rehobothbeachvia.org. For information, call 302 226-5476 or 610 312-8050.

Join the fun and make VIA's "Art of Accessorizing" evening an autumn tradition.

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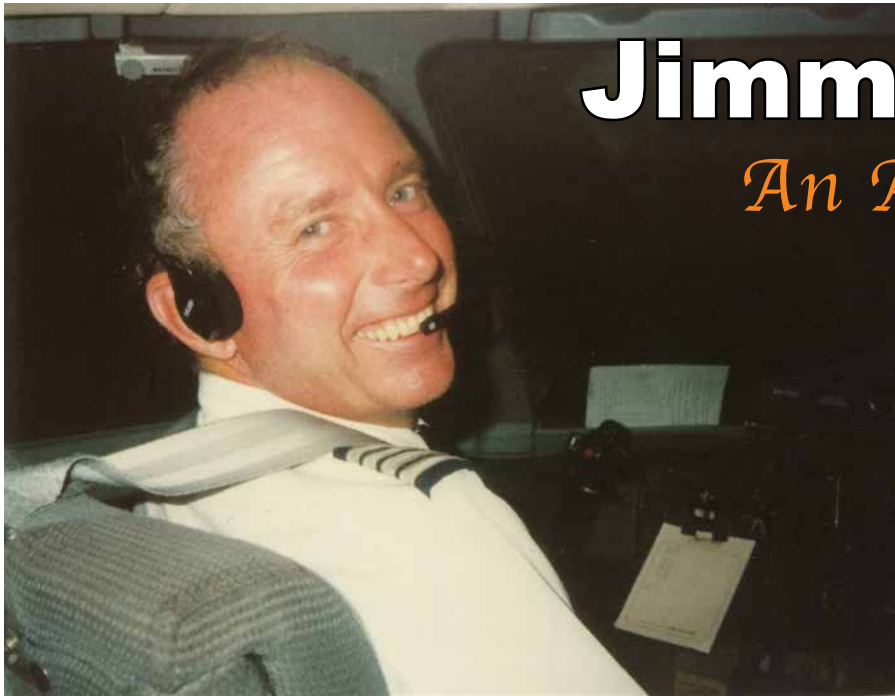
September is Membership Month at the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society



Rehoboth Beach - During the month of September, The Rehoboth Beach Historical Society is offering to new members 18 months for the cost of a one-year membership - an extra six months free.

Membership includes advanced notice of upcoming events, discounts in the gift shop and on ticketed events such as the annual Beach Ball.

The Museum is open year round, with programs, lectures, radio plays and opportunities for volunteering. For further information on joining, please go to the Museum website at www.rehobothbeachmuseum.org or call (302) 227-7310 to sign up.



Captain Vreeland

Courtesy Jimmy Vreeland

Jimmy Vreeland:

An Amazing Entrepreneur of Sussex County

By Joanne Guilfoil

And another ag pilot and the most recent to be inducted into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame. So, why would a Lower Shore crop duster be so highly honored? Easy, because there is way more to his story ... his history.

Jimmy is considered by many to be one of the "grandfathers of Delaware aviation education". He is also a kind and humble gentleman and is clearly a living legend.

Best Flight Instructor on the East Coast

Jimmy's career as a flight instructor is primarily his most outstanding contribution to Delaware's aviation community. But before teaching anyone to fly, he had to first learn how to fly safely and very well. And he did. He learned from the best, Mr. John Reed of Laurel, DE. Then at age 18, Jimmy flew for Cal Hollis and serviced the alfalfa-harvesting equipment called "wafer machines". As a young man, he flew into fields where the machines broke down. After logging in over 200 hours of barnstorming-type flying in one year, he began teaching in Laurel for Mr. John Reed.

During the late 60s Jimmy taught hundreds of students, with many on the GI Bill. And many more came long distances because of his reputation in flight instruction at Laurel Airport. His students included family members such as Allen Chorman then his brother Ron, and generations such as Allen and his son Jeff Chorman. Former student Lt. William A. Willey DSP (Retired, 2008) said that Jimmy was "the best instructor on the East Coast."

A Gentleman Duster

While on top of his game, Jimmy turned to crop-dusting, and he earned equal honors as an aerial applicator during the 70s. He flew out of Milford, then Greenwood, always working directly with farmers. He gave them the most current and best information, in an honest and direct manner. Former DE Agriculture Secretary Ed Kee knew Jimmy and his ag work in the 70s said "...he was always a gentleman".



Courtesy Jimmy Vreeland

Jimmy and his son Shawn

Senior Aviation Statesman

Once again on top of his game, Jimmy turned to commercial flight and then flight instruction. He flew for Piedmont Airlines out of Salisbury, then became a "check airman". This meant he approved the flying skills of pilots (after their training in an airplane or simulator) before they could carry passengers



Courtesy Jimmy Vreeland

Jimmy and his Ag Cat

on board. During the 80s & 90s Jimmy also logged in over 30,000 hours of safe flying in 102 different aircraft! But that was not all he did back then.

A Pilot's Pilot

During the early 80s Jimmy also flew in area airshows during the summer months. His daily grind for a few hot weeks began with crop dusting in the early morning hours, then flying aerobatic maneuvers in an airshow close to home, then crop-dusting in the evening, until dark. As then Secretary Ed Kee recalled one day in 2016, it was just this diverse set of skills that "Jim brought to the cockpit with each flight".

Jimmy's colleagues in the aerial application business in Sussex County still call him a "pilot's pilot". Some students regard him as the "grandfather of Delaware aviation education". Now the rest of us know him as an honored Sussex County entrepreneur.

Resources:
Chorman, A. Letter of Nomination for James Vreeland to Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame
Guilfoil, JK. "Flying over Delmarva: Spray Planes, Banner Planes & Bi-Planes"
Guilfoil, JK. Cover Letter on James Vreeland to Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame



Courtesy Jimmy Vreeland and Robert Blasdel

Jimmy and daughter Dawn and the Pitts Special




Courtesy Jimmy Vreeland and Robert Blasdel

Jimmy flying over soybeans

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Soaring High

Who would have thought reading an article in US Airways magazine on a weekly business trip would change the course of Amy Mc Dermott's career and life? Well, that's exactly what happened four years ago when she read an article about a company called Seniors Helping Seniors. According to McDermott, the article "touched her heart." She called the founder of the company, Kiran Yocom, who had worked with Mother Teresa for 14 years in India before coming to the United States, and after meeting one another, the local franchise of Seniors Helping Seniors was created.

Seniors Helping Seniors was founded in 1998 with two simple ideas: seniors can help each other age more happily and gracefully, and seniors who give, and those who receive, benefit equally. Quite simply, active men and women fifty years or older assist less able seniors with chores and offer companionship at very reasonable rates. McDermott says they "operate on a common courtesy system with no contracts and no requirement to pre-pay." In the past three years the franchise experienced significant growth, particularly in southern Sussex County, and Amy is always looking for seniors who have room in their hearts and time on their hands for part time employment.

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Peninsula Community Church

Submitted by Bob Odom

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Women's Book Club begins September 14, at 6:00 PM - Join the ladies as they study Lisa Turkerst book "Uninvited" together. This study is about friendships and how to bring the fullness of God into every situation, even when we face rejection. Uninvited reminds us we are destined for a love that can never be diminished, tarnished, shaken, or taken—a love that does not reject or uninvite.

Men's Bible Study begins on September 14 at 6:00 PM. We will be studying the video series "Greater" from Steven Furtrick. This study is a perfect study to stir your faith, build your spiritual confidence, and inspire you toward your unique calling for your life.

Sunday School begins September 10 at 9:00 AM. In this series, we will be studying Andy Stanley's study "Follow." As believers we are called to follow Jesus in relationship with Him. This study will give us the tools we need to be more successful in this endeavor.

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