

Program: Jenny's Allure

Speaker: Ruth Ann Ingraham

Introduced by: Bonnie Carter, Sciencetech member

Attendance: 102

Guests: Peter Birkel, Martha Boon, Dennis Cake, Michelle Kahlo, Sandy Hurt, Greg Swinney **Scribe:** Gonz Chua

Editor: Carl Warner

Today's talk was based on the book "Cap" Cornish, Indiana Pilot: Navigating the Century of Flight". It is a biography of the author's father, Captain Clarence Cornish, a pioneer of aviation from Indiana. Major sources for the book are 135 letters he wrote to family members with pictures and memorabilia found in a wooden box after his passing in 1995.

Captain Cornish was born in St. Mary, Ontario Canada in 1898 and moved with the family to Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1900. He was active in the American Boy Scouts and was involved in early wireless telegraphy. He enlisted in the US Cavalry in 1917 at the outbreak of WWI. He later was accepted into the Signal Corps and learned to identify airplanes. He then went on to learn to fly and first flew solo on May 27, 1918. He earned his wings on July 13, 1918 as a member of US Army Air Service.

From 1919 to 1928, he was a partner in the Ft. Wayne Radio Company, stayed in the Army Reserves as a Second Lieutenant and continued flying as a corporate pilot. Between 1928 and 1934, he managed an airplane ride company and tried to sell airplanes. He had his first aircraft wreck but walked away without serious injuries. He was part of the "Indiana Air Tour" promoting aviation in 1935.

He returned to active duty in July, 1941 at the beginning of WWII. After the war, he came back to Indiana as Director of the Indiana Aeronautic Commission. He retired as a Colonel of the US Air Force Reserve. He continued flying until a few weeks before his passing. His last flight was on December 4, 1995 just 18 days before his death.

Indeed, he was a pioneer of American aviation, and this book a story of love by his daughter.



Author and Sciencetech member Ruth Ann Ingraham showing her latest book "**Cap" Cornish, Indiana Pilot: Navigating the Century of Flight** to fellow Sciencetech member Ken Crook.