



## AMA in World War II

told by people who were there

beginning on page 27



### V-Mail - letters to and from The Rollers during the War

beginning on page 31



This flag, right, flew over AMA on Pearl Harbor Day. Now on display at the AMA Museum.

## General Jim Meier, '58, passes away

Major General James W. Meier, USAF, '58, passed away peacefully at his home in St. Helena Island, SC on 5 August. General Meier had spoken at AMA's Founders Day ceremonies this past May during Reunion 2000. Story on page 9.

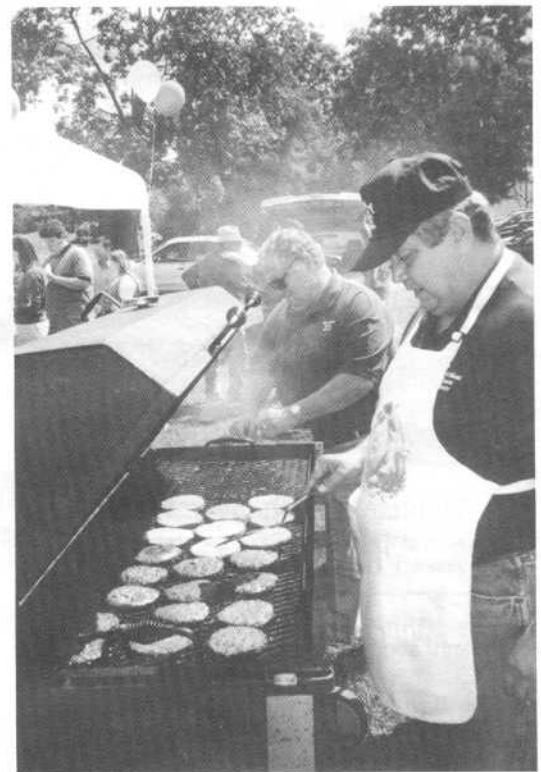
## Mickey Gordon, '39, funds VMI stipends

In an act of characteristic generosity, Marvin "Mickey" Gordon, '39, has contributed \$10,000 to the VMI Scholarship Fund with the dividends from the contribution going to help pay the annual VMI Scholarships.

Gordon recently made another \$10,000 donation to support the renovation of the AMA Alumni House and Museum.

Alumni Association President **Goodloe Saunders, '57**, said, "We always count on Mickey to help out where a need exists. Over the years, he's been the first to volunteer for AMA, the first to sign up for a reunion or other event." He served as 2<sup>nd</sup> President of the AMA Alumni Association, stepping into the job in 1970 when **Parker Ward, '54**, died in a plane crash.

Each year, the Alumni Association funds 4 \$500 scholarships for VMI cadets who are selected by the Institute. **General Roller** graduated from VMI in 1901, and there has been a strong association with VMI since.



ALUMNI PICNIC - Gary Nicholson, '70, and Frank Williamson, '60, perform chow duties at the Fall AMA Alumni Picnic in front of Alumni House. Story on page 21.

Are you a member of

**The 2,034?**

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### COACH CLAIBORNE DIES

As this issue went to press, we learned of the death of Coach Jerry Claiborne whose first football head coaching job was at AMA and who went on to become Coach of the Year in 3 college conferences. Details in next issue.

**COLONEL LIVICK**  
recovering at home  
after mild heart attack  
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## Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.



Fall 2000

Dear Fellow Alumnus:

You may be surprised to learn that more than 700 visitors have toured the AMA Museum since it was formally opened this past May! 700 people! That is 10 percent of the total number of fellows who attended AMA in all its years of operation. A fantastic response to the museum and all it stands for.

Remarkably -- and most unfortunately -- the vast majority of the volunteer work to make our museum a shining attraction is being done by a precious few alumni and friends: **Chief Cole, Don Studer, Rod Willey** and Sue, **Ben Zinkhan**, and, of course, that tireless workhorse, **Duke Fancher**. We owe them so much.

We simply must find some more *local volunteers* -- people who live in or near Augusta County -- who will give us a few hours a week, or a few hours a month. It is too much to expect that these same few people will be in the Alumni House day in and day out, greeting visitors, cataloguing museum items, and doing all the other things that make our little museum the gem of the Shenandoah Valley.

And, much as I am loath to talk about it, we still need contributions. There is the continuing need to operate the museum, pay the utilities, and staff the alumni house. We have borrowed from other funds to pay the final costs of the restoration, and these funds need to be repaid, and repaid soon.

There are only so many ways to say it: we need your *contributions* and we need your *time*. Which do you have the most of -- time or money? We'll take either one!

*Goodloe Saunders, '57*

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



### Volume 00, Number 4

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The *Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission. Clear, correctly exposed photos are welcome.

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## An editorial

from the *Staunton News Leader*,  
September 5, 2000

### Military academy filled to the brim with memories

No matter how imperfect the experience might have been, we, all, look back on our school days with a mixture of wistfulness, longing and nostalgia. Those days of incipient discovery, shared confidences, missteps, blunders and triumphs are a common thread.

All alumni of a particular school are brothers and sisters under the skin. Such is the case from the most modest high school to the loftiest university. And such is the case with the alumni of Augusta Military Academy.

Recently, staff writer Tim Harrington reported on the burgeoning trove of artifacts which have been pouring into the AMA Alumni House and Museum. When the museum opened a scant

few months ago, there was some worry about how they would fill the displays. Now, their problem is where will they manage to put everything that has been loaned or donated to the museum.

The items range from the sublime to the mundane, but as with all small museums, there is an immediacy, an intimacy present that grander-scale collections lack.

Touched with the joy, hope, and rambunctiousness of youth, these items speak across the years, bridging the gap between the living and those who have long since passed on. A uniform that once clothed a cadet on the eve of the Civil War makes one pause and ponder his ultimate fate. A lone glove conjures up images of inspections. A nearly 110 year old love letter breathes life into a long gone Victorian tryst between teenagers as we read the words penned by a Staunton girl to an AMA cadet in 1891: "*I hope Professor Roller didn't find out you came to town.*"

The AMA exhibit is filled with memories and form a bridge between  
*(continued on page 16)*

**Colonel and Mrs. Livick's** grandson, Michael, age 13, now owns a car! Though he can't drive it until he is 16, he has a 1999 Chevrolet convertible. Michael was the winner of Marriage Before Carriage prize, a drawing for kids who pledged to wait for marriage before having sex. *"I think I was more excited than he was,"* says Michael's mother, Lee Livick Hahn.

1930

(NO AGENT)

**Admiral Joe Yon** and Sallie live in Portsmouth and have been married for 68 years. They now have 5 great-grandchildren. He retired from the Medical Corps of the Navy after 34 years of service.

1932

(NO AGENT)

**Lewis Towers** has some wonderful memories of his brief stay at AMA. He recently had spinal surgery, and while he was recovering, asked his wife, Kaye, to send his AMA belt buckle to the AMA Museum. Thanks, Lewis!

1935

(JULIAN QUARLES)

**George Adam** lives in League City, TX. He wrote to identify his brother, **Bill, '40**, whose picture appeared in the Spring 2000 *Bayonet*. Bill passed away some 3 years ago.

1938

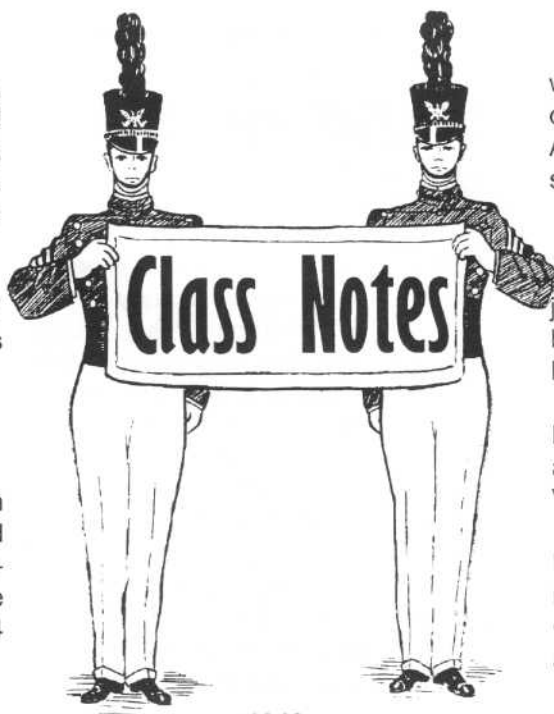
(NO AGENT)

**Charles Board** has a new address: 726 Loveville Road, #94, Rockessin, DE 19707-1524.

1939

(MICKEY GORDON)

**Mickey Gordon** has been named to the President's Club of the American Funds Group, their highest honor. He was cited for his superior customer service in the Shenandoah Valley and Washington, DC areas. Mickey has been with Advest for 30 years, and has been in financial services for 52 years.



1942

**John Taylor** is back on the AMA mailing list. Welcome, John! e-mail: LeeHigh@1opener.net

1943

(EARL CABANISS &amp; CHRIS HARRISON)

**Sam Caprette** did not know that the AMA Alumni Association is *"alive and kicking..."* Yes, Sam, we are here! He was diagnosed with MSA (multiple system atrophy, or Shy-Drager Syndrome) 18 months ago, an ailment



Admiral Joe Yon, '30

which affects balance and manual dexterity. He'd love to hear from other AMA alumni. You can e-mail Sam at: sjcaprette@juno.com

**Bob Guggenheimer** writes that all is well in Spain. Bob was a journalist in Madrid and retired in that beautiful city a few years back. e-mail him at: guggenheimer@teleline.es

**Fred Haden** has given us his mailing address: 2702 Ankeny Street, Oakton, VA 22124-1607.

**Leonard Salasky** has a new snail mail address: 1069 Harrington Way, Carmichael, CA 95600. Len's e-mail address: salasky@aol.com

**Chris Harrison** was sorry to have missed Reunion 2000, but he has a degenerative eye condition that makes it difficult for him to drive. *"I may have missed my last opportunity to get back to a reunion... Delay at my age is not a good thing!"* Chris, we are pulling for you to come back next May for Reunion 2001.

**Bob Powell**, former 1<sup>st</sup> Captain and a retired lieutenant colonel, USA, gives his new address: 20985 Unison Road, Middleburg, VA 20117.

**Herb McCawley** enjoyed the photo of classmates **Charlie West, Bill Stuart,** and **Cass Leigh** which appeared in the Summer 2000 *Bayonet*. *"Bill was known as 'Cadet Spic, Span and Clean'... with great military bearing."*

1944

(NO AGENT)

**Bill Clede** has been an environmental reporter for 30 years with the Hartford, CT *Times*, and on Hartford Radio Station WTIC. He also has worked with the NRA on its safe shooter program over quite a few years.



Bill Clede

Names in parentheses under each year indicate the Class Agent for that year

1946  
(NO AGENT)

**Bob Lappin** spends the summers on Cape Cod, and the rest of the year in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

1947  
(NO AGENT)

**Harry May** checks in with a new e-mail address: HarryM10@aol.com

1948  
(BILL HARRIS)

**Les Zittrain** is a practicing attorney in Pittsburgh who says that he is now "working toward retirement." Thank you, Les, for your generous contribution to the alumni association.

**Hal Walters** and a Naval Academy classmate have developed "a real paradise at 3,000 feet here at Brevard, NC, including a 30 acre lake stocked with trout." Now, says Hal, he can make it to the reunions in much less time than it used to take when he lived in Florida.

**Francis X. Fields** updates us on the condition of his eye. In the last *Bayonet*, we reported that "The Mad Bugler" had to leave Reunion 2000 early because of a problem with his left eye, which turned out to be a detached retina. No fun! He had surgery to correct things and 4 weeks later, the retina had detached again. He is concerned that he might not be able to drive down to Reunion 2001 from his home in Aberdeen, MD. Hey, FX, don't you worry - we'll come and get you if we have to! Get well fast!

**John English** served in the US Air Force 1948-1968. He now lives in Kennesaw, GA. His e-mail address: jenglish@mindspring.com

**Dick Steele** says that after 16 years in public office, he is enjoying country living in Bonifay, FL. "Retirement wouldn't be the same without *The Bayonet*. I really look forward to reading about my old buddies." Dick was Drum Major, and his tower roommates were **Ernie Click**, **John Seibold** and **Bill Sellers**.

1949  
(NO AGENT)

**Doug Nemier** has a new e-mail address: JDNemier@aol.com

1950  
(JIM LUPTON)

**Bob Bradford** and Nancy welcomed a new granddaughter, Sydney Grace Batt, into the world on 21 July. Laura and Mike Batt also have a 3 year old daughter, Alexandra. The Batts live in Folsom, CA.

1952  
(NO AGENT)

**Corky Gardner** didn't get to the reunion, but he was through Fort Defiance during the summer. The museum was closed, but he read all the pavers "with some emotion."

1953  
(NO AGENT)

**Dr. Sam Martin** is a consulting engineer in South Dennis, MA. e-mail: sammartin@mediaone.net

**Lew Mundin** recently visited **Phil Thomas**, '57, in Thomas' office in Middleburg. Lew says, "We talked about old times and the girls at Fairfax Hall..." Lew also reports that **Jay Fox**, '53, visited the new AMA Museum and Alumni House, and was much impressed with what he saw.

1956  
(NO AGENT)

**Bob Menefee, Jr.** lives in Fairfax, VA where he has been a baseball coach for many years. Now retired, he manages a summer baseball team in a league around the Beltway.

**Harry Sommers** is a retired police lieutenant from Fairfax County, VA. He now lives in Lake Charles, LA.

1957  
(GOODLOE SAUNDERS)

**Tony Webster's** widow has enrolled in aviation ground school and flight training and hopes to have her private pilot's license this fall. She maintains a strong and abiding interest in AMA, and very much enjoys being on *The*

*Bayonet* mailing list.

1958  
(DUKE FANCHER)

**Terry Snow** continues his slow improvement from the effects of a massive stroke. His stepfather, Don Brah, says Terry really loves to have visits from his AMA friends. He also likes to get phone calls at 804/847-7208. If there is no answer, he likely is in therapy, or in the hallway. Try again! We're praying for you, Terry.

1959  
(ELLIOTT RIDGE, DAVE  
CONRAD, & LLOYD  
EASTLACK)

**Dave Hunt** dropped by to see the school for the first time since he graduated, and was met at the Alumni House by his old friend, **Duke Fancher**, '58. He plans to be back for the reunion in 2001. e-mail address: thunt@yar.miracosta.cc.ca.us

1960  
(FRANK WILLIAMSON)

**Wayne Bart** says he really enjoyed Reunion 2000 - the first he ever attended - and will be back in 2001.

**Fred Anderson** also thought the reunion was great. "We met a truly wonderful bunch of guys and their equally wonderful wives." e-mail Fred at: whaven@crosslink.net

**Ben Zinkhan** suffered a heart attack in mid-July. He is on a new diet and medication, and is feeling much better now.

1961  
HONOR CLASS IN 2001  
(JACK STEELE)

**Luther Long** lives in Cary, NC. e-mail: llong@ci.durham.nc.us

**Daryl McClung** says, "I really enjoyed Reunion 2000 and I look forward to seeing the museum completed." He plans to attend his class' 40<sup>th</sup> reunion next year.

**Lucian Chappelle** lives in Huntsville, AL. He is retired army and glad to be back on the mailing list.

