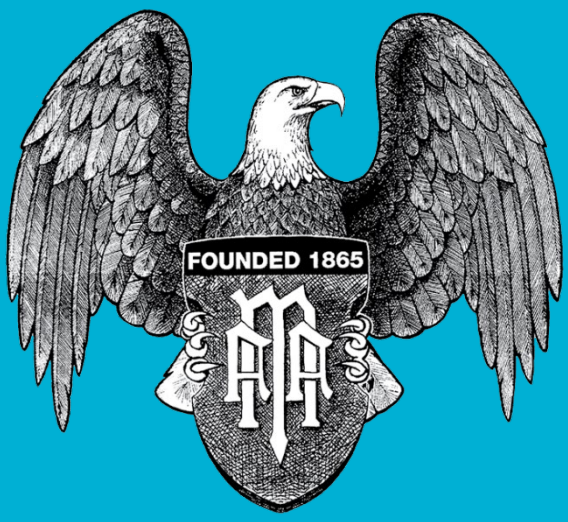
Museum of Augusta Military Academy News



Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

May - 2020

ROLLER RIFLES II - 2007

Chairman's Notes

May 1, 2020

Dear fellow Alumni and friends,

Well, the 2020 Alumni Reunion date passed and for the first time since our reunion has been a thing, Fort Defiance was not a destination for any of us. Sad, but part of our new reality. The important thing is that everyone stays safe and healthy so that we can have and enjoy an outstanding reunion in 2021!

We are still debating what our theme will be for next year, but one thing is for sure, both the class of 1970 and 1971 will be celebrating

their 50th anniversary at the same reunion! Another first, so start making plans to visit Ft. Defiance in April next year! We will announce the 2021 reunion dates as soon they are chosen.

In the few weeks that have passed since I was selected Foundation Chairman, I have busied myself preparing our 2020 AMA agenda, and have gotten to interact (Via Zoom video calls) with the entire Board and our museum staff. I am happy to report that Neil, Chris and Rich are ready and excited to continue their work to care for the museum and answer and attend any question all AMA Alumni and friends may have.

I have implemented a weekly Zoom video meeting with the Museum staff which I believe will assure good communication and collaboration between all parties. Zoom video meetings will be the new standard in communication within our organization moving forward.

Neal has been working with our bank and has provided them with all of the pertinent information and paperwork for us to receive a PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) loan which will eventually be converted into a grant. We received word Friday April 24 that our request had been approved and we should have the money in our account no later than May 8!

I have also completed the list of this year's standing committees. I strongly believe that a multi committee structure will facilitate the sharing of our workload and should help us to gain traction towards our primary goal, which is to preserve our legacy by assuring the long-term fiscal stability that is necessary to keep our museum open beyond our lifetimes.

You may see the various committee list and their members in the Foundation Board news section of this newsletter.

You will notice that members of museum staff are included in many of the committees and we also have several non-Board members, former faculty and and a new friend to AMA in the group. I invite anyone to send ideas and feedback to a committee whose mission may interest you.

We need all the help you can offer!

Team Effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman

Augusta Military Academy

ORAL HISTORY

Written by : Frank Williamson '60

"Well Franklin, tell us about yourself", asked the tall, handsome assistant football coach, Major Mal Livick. This was my idea of what was going to be "a walk in the park." I related my high school graduation, great junior year with letters coming from many colleges expressing their interests in my football abilities. Added to that, I told Major Livick about my tragic Senior season as co-captain of the Benedictine High School Cadets football team. In the 2nd game of the season, I was clipped on a punt return and my leg was broken. After 5 weeks in a cast, I was knocked unconscious (again on a punt return, but a legal tackle. I "came to" in an ambulance on the way to the hospital. Soooo, the letters started to become few and far between. In actuality, I had missed my Senior year football season.

At the end of this litany, AMA Head Coach Bill Ralph joined us and agreed that I should have one military school football season before entering college level football. Then Coach Ralph stood up and I said to myself, "My God, he's a giant"! Bill Ralph, a VMI graduate, 3 letter man, just towered over me. He was about 6'7" & 275 lbs. Meeting him reinforced why General Roller, "the Big Boy" hired Ralph as his football coach. I never got over the fact that he could throw a football 70 yards while standing flat-footed still. We had a great year with 5 wins, 1 loss & 3 ties.

Read the entire story

MUSEUM
DOCENT DUTY

-The Next Step-

Bring the ball to Big Boy!

-or-

Bring the ball to Mal Mal!

Our goal for 2020:

$125,000

PLEASE WRITE A CHECK! Wire Transfers and PayPal also welcomed!

THANK YOU!

DONATE HERE

THANK YOU!
To those who have volunteered!

The AMA Museum was closed in April. We will need Volunteer Docents in June, so please sign up.

Museum Volunteer

SIGN UP HERE

AMA Alumni Foundation Board NEWS

Committee Roster for 2020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Douglas Pennock * (Chairman)
Tom Del Valle (Vice-Chairman)
John Arthur (Secretary)
Gary Cripps (Treasurer)

REUNION SUPPORT COMMITTEE
Jorge Rovirosa - Chair
Garry Granger
Steve Trent
Don Studer**

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE
Gary Cripps - Chair
Jorge Rovirosa

SPORTS HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE
John Arthur - Chair

Tom Del Valle

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
Gary Morrison - Chair
Ed Rogerville
Tom Del Valle
Warren Fleming '72 **

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (AWOL Cadets)
Larry Nicholson - Chair
Frank Williamson
Jim Belcher, Jr. **
Chris Correa **

ELECTION COMMITTEE
John Arthur - Chair
Frank Williamson
Gordon Metz

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Garry Granger - Chair
B.J. D'Orsay
Steve Trent
Neil Fitzpatrick **

MUSEUM UPKEEP COMMITTEE
Gordon Metz - Chair
Rich VanBreeman **
Brett Thompson '75**
Don Studer**

PX / Gift Shoppe
Gary Cripps - Chair
Neil Fitzpatrick **
Jim Atchison '72**

*Note 1: * Ex officio member of all committee*
*Note 2: ** Non-Board member*

AMA Foundation Board

Standing Committee's General Responsibilities

Executive Committee
Oversee and support all committees

REUNION SUPPORT COMMITTEE
Guide and support the AMA Association with R-2021

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE
Prepare annual budget and oversee all financial matters

SPORTS HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE
Identify and select **AMASHOF** candidates for R-2021

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
Identify, foster and ask for donations and grants

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (AWOL Cadets)
Search, identify and engage "lost" Alumni. If deemed appropriate, will refer "found" Alumni to the Fundraising Committee.

ELECTION COMMITTEE
Identify and vet candidates for the 2021 Foundation "Directors" position. Organize and follow through with the Director election process.

PUBLIC RELATIONS and MARKETING COMMITTEE
Responsible to market and create a positive awareness for the Museum to Alumni, local and national community members and the Pentecostal Church.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE
Responsible for the permanent short, medium and long-term maintenance of the Museum physical plant (interior and exterior). Communicate capital and budget needs the Financial Committee in a timely manner. Support and guide Rich with museum exhibits, re: content and placement in the house.

PX / Gift Shoppe
Oversee and track inventory purchase, content and sales. Will maintain an up to date physical inventory of all stock. Physical inventory will be performed at a quarterly basis. Will work closely with the Financial Committee and the Chairman.

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint
May 2020

Editor's Note:
The following expressions are mine alone. I look forward to your feedback. You may contact me directly at:
dpennock2002@yahoo.com

52 days. That is how long the lockdown has lasted in Puerto Rico. We don't know how much longer this will continue, but we are being told that starting May 11, many things will finally be opening up. Our "lockdown" is probably stricter than in most States, but all in all, we who live in America are all sharing the same circumstances and conditions where most of our lives and time revolve around the interior of our home.

I look forward to when we can go to a movie, football or baseball game and in my case, to hug and kiss my grandkids.

Extreme circumstances usually inspire people to think outside the box. We must rethink what is our normal, thereby allowing day to day life to continue with a radically different approach to how we perform habitual life tasks and actions but yet generating similar outcomes.

Distance learning in secondary and primary education is one example, working from home by so many people that never imagined that they could, will certainly force Corporate America to rethink what an office should look and function like. I would not be surprised that many Fortune 500 and Mom and Pop companies will be radically downsizing how many square feet of office space they really need to operate their business. Unfortunately, office building owners will be feeling the backlash of that reality over the next few years.

We adapt and go on living.

At AMA, cadets constantly thought outside of the box. Sometimes, our serious brainstorming was focused on how to get away with things that were probably tour or demerit causing events. Yet, we persevered and for the most part, were successful in achieving our goals. I will not elaborate on the exact particulars of our escapades, but alcohol and girls were on the top of the list!

So, even with this pesky Virus that originated in China, we will overcome and reboot our new normal.

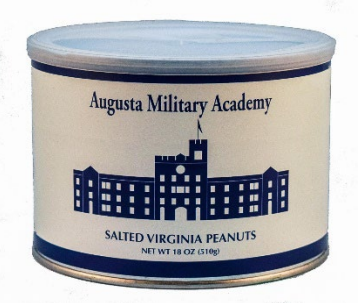
I look forward to see what that will look and feel like!

Doug out.

PX/Gift Shoppe

ORDER HERE

Featured is a small sample of what we have for sale.



–NEW– VIDEO SPOTLIGHT –NEW–

JACK WHITE

WATCH HERE

vanBreemen Expressions

Rich vanBreemen is the AMA Museum's Collections Curator.

Famous vs Influential

When I am out and about in town and people learn that I work at the Augusta Military Academy Museum, one of the most frequently asked questions is, “Who was the most famous alum?” That is actually a good question and one I am not able to easily answer. I suspect if I were taking a poll of those reading this article, I would get very different opinions. Being famous is both subjective and relative to the time period in question. But all of that aside, there is ONE name that repeatedly comes up – Jacob "Shorty" Manch (class of ’38).

You probably all know the story; Jack was the copilot on B-25 #3 of the famed Doolittle raid. A Staunton war hero who continued his USAF career into the late 1950’s only to die in a tragic airplane accident. Even in death he built on his legacy as he saved his passenger from injury and then stayed with the disabled aircraft until he had directed it out of a populated area saving civilians on the ground. There is a school in Las Vegas named after him for this action. Yes, Jack is probably what you could call famous.

Not everyone who attended AMA was famous but does mean they weren’t of importance? What if we change the question from “famous” to INFLUENTIAL? The faculty and staff, through their program of military discipline and structured education influenced approximately 7000 young men who passed through the gates of AMA over its 110-year history. Some rose to greatness and others lived normal lives, but all were influenced by what they experienced at AMA.

The Chinese philosophy of Yin/Yang describes the duality of life; the essence of give and take. So, who left AMA and gave back that positive influence that they had received? There are countless stories to be told and they show up in the most unusual of places. While cleaning off a shelf, I found a book titled, “Robert Gamble See, Rev. – a daughter’s remembrance”. I began to read and was rewarded with the story of Robert See, a local Augusta County boy whose family decided he need to be educated and learn some discipline by sending him to AMA. In short, he graduated from AMA in 1892, went to school at Hampton Sidney and eventually became an ordained minister. He was a humble man, ministering his flock in southern Virginia for over 60 years.

He never forgot his time at AMA and was the guest speaker at AMA in 1963. Rev See lived to be 100 years old and is buried at the Augusta Stone Church in the family plot, to the left of Charles S. Roller, his old school master. It would be impossible to know how many people just those 2 men had positively influenced in their lives. However, that is what they did and that is the real legacy of our institution.

As we work towards reopening the museum, we hope to be able to share more stories like that of Rev. Robert G. See along with that of Lt. Col. Jack Manch. Not everyone becomes famous, but everyone influences those they interact with.

By the way……The second most asked question is, “Is that place haunted?”

Respectfully submitted by:
Rich vanBreemen

The 2020 Summer BAYONET will arrive in June

The 2020 Spring BAYONET may be seen by clicking on the link.

HERE

The Museum Newsletter was written and prepared by Doug Pennock and edited by Trudy Pennock

This issue of the AMA Museum Newsletter was sponsored by: AMA Class of 1970

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY MUSEUM
- Fort Defiance, Virginia -

MISSION STATEMENT "To preserve the traditions of the Augusta Military Academy and to honor the memory of the life and times of its alumni, faculty, staff, and supporting families through permanent and temporary exhibits and diligent conservation the museum's collections of artifacts, archives and photographs."
The AMA MUSEUM is operated by the AMA Alumni Foundation, which is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. The museum is manned by former cadets and faculty members, who volunteer their time and talent. Funding for the museum is totally dependent on tax-exempt financial gifts and donations made by the alumni, former faculty, and friends of Augusta Military Academy, as well as the community and visitors to the museum.

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