Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

October - 2020

“Loyalty to country ALWAYS. Loyalty to government, when it deserves it.”

-Mark Twain-

Chairman's Note

October 1, 2020

Greetings fellow Alumni and friends,

I hope everyone is well and that COVID-19 has avoided you and your loved ones.
We are into the 2020 Fall Season and hopefully our world will finally begin to normalize. I for one feel a tremendous sense of relief after resolving our long and frustrating encounter with the many problems we discovered in the business side of our Museum Administration.

I am very satisfied with the way our current Museum Staff has met our challenge to make our organization “Sunday Room Inspection” ready and to work in a manner that would impress the most judicious of our Alumni and friends.

Rich, along with the solid assistance of Chris and our Charleton Intern, Ainsley, have met my challenge and believe it or not, have exceeded my expectations in the manner in which they have not missed a beat after being exposed to what could have been a toxic situation over that past few months. We are indeed very fortunate to have these smart, hardworking and dedicated folks tending to our Museum!

All of the various Board Committees continue to actively work diligently, and as was the case in July, we will hold a Foundation Board Meeting on October 24, 2020 at the Museum Conference room where all Committee progress will be shared and discussed by the entire membership.

We have several exciting projects in the works which I will expand on in the future, but our primary focus at this time, is to identify and request grant money to help fund the day-to-day Museum operations. We have recently retained Ms. Constance Jackson, a well-respected Grant writer, to write at least 20 grant requests that if approved, would specifically help offset our day-to day operational costs.

The Reunion 2021 Committee, along with the "Ladies of AMA" are well into the preparation and planning of our April event. I believe everyone will be pleased with the new Reunion format and calendar that Jorge Rovirosa, Garry Granger, Steve Trent and Don Studer are putting together. This year’s Reunion focus is to have a fun and relaxing weekend that will be affordable, include great food, and will focus on Alumni camaraderie and getting back in touch with our old Alma Mater.

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

The Ladies of AMA have been activated!!

These three lovely Ladies of AMA, Top left - Chairwoman Trudy Pennock (Doug ’72), center - Kiki Rovirosa (Jorge ’70)

and bottom right - Becky Granger (Garry '71), are the heart and soul of what will be sugar and spice and everything nice and **FUN** at the 2021 Alumni Reunion! They are looking for other AMA ladies and friends to help with AMA Reunion 2021 which will be held April 15, 16 and 17, 2021.
They are planning a fundraising rock and bottle painting party for Friday afternoon to be held at the AMA campus as well as taking care of decoration, gift auctions, gift basket sales among other things. More details in the November Newsletter.

"We guarantee a great time and lots of laughs helping the guys organize their reunion...."
Trudy Pennock

You may Contact Trudy at Doug Pennock's AMA Foundation email at:

chairman.amafoundation@amaalumni.org

Augusta Military Academy Oral History
MEMORIES FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Bob Buckmaster, ‘48

Reprinted from the March 2002 Bayonet

Thinking back all those years, I can’t recall a single fellow cadet or staff member that I didn’t like. While I loved them both, Major Roller and Major Hoover were the two that could cause some real fear from time to time. Big Boy, just by being himself, struck fear in cadets if you had reason to fear him. I recall Major Hoover teaching Spanish by standing behind you with a fencing foil -- broken as I remember -- and whacking your butt when you failed to conjugate verbs correctly!!!

While I marched my fair share of penalties, I never had Big Boy whack the palm of my hand in the front of the Big Room during his classes or had to load coal in the boiler room. I remember when I used to drive around the school after many snow storms with Paul Bratton ‘48, in the Army truck, plow on the front, to clear roads. We always had to do the roads around Colonel Tom’s and Big Boy’s house as well. Paul must have had a special connection with Big Boy as he was always driving the school bus, running errands in the jeep, or doing any sort of chores around the school. He was a great guy and ended up as our ‘48 Battalion Commander. Remember “SKUNK IN THE

COURTYARD" in the middle of the night? Some poor skunk would get into the courtyard and the Corps of Cadets scared the poor critter to death by chasing it around the quadrangle until enough got sprayed to help get it out again. Remember rolling the old WW I cannon on rugs into the courtyard, past the O.D., and somehow missing Big Boys frequent trips in the "Grey Ghost"?

I remember going skunk hunting under the mess hall with a bow and arrow. The object was to get the skunk to freeze in the light of a flashlight and then shoot it before it had a chance to smell up the mess hall. We had to get a special pass from Big Boy to do it. I worked in the armory with Charlie Fowler, George Maust and Fred Shappee when we converted from the 1903 Springfield rifle to the Garand when we received the Garand's after the war.

READ THE ENTIRE STORY HERE

-ALL OARS IN-

Please remember that a monthly pledge from everyone that reads this newsletter

MUSEUM
DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in SEPTEMBER!

Scott Travers '

Note:
Victor Gomez volunteered 62 hours working on a special investigative project requested by the Chairman!

means that the future of the "Bayonet" and the Museum will be assured.

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

Visitors in September

46

(23 separate tours)

Museum Volunteer's

We really need Volunteer Docents! Please sign up below.

SIGN UP HERE

AMA Alumni Foundation Board and Museum NEWS

The AMA Foundation Board will hold a meeting on Saturday October 24, 2020 at 9:30 AM at the Museum.

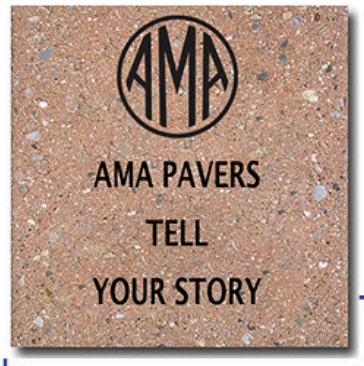
Civil War Book Collection Donated to the Museum

Mr. Dick Halseth, has donated his 1,400 copy Civil War book collection to the AMA Museum. The collection has been appraised at $15,000.

We are currently storing the books at our off site storage facility in Verona and will be documenting all of them in to our Museum database.
A large number of the books are first editions and we plan on preparing a small library of the most important books as a display and reference center in the museum.

Reach out to your old AMA roommate, teammate, bandmate even an old Roller Rifle buddy.

Re-connect with AMA and plan on attending Alumni Reunion to be held April 15,16 and 17 2021!



Paver Order Form

Options:

4" x 8" ~ 3 lines of 20 characters each - $50
8" x 8" ~ 6 lines of 20 characters each - $100
8" x 8" ~ 3-6 lines of 20 characters plus graphic - $225
*number of lines depends on size of graphic

Left: example of 8 x 8 with graphic and three lines of text.

Fill in the blanks below. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!** Only one paver per order form. Print additional copies for additional pavers. When you buy a paver, you SUPPORT AMA'S ALUMNI FOUNDATION.

Your Name : _____ Class, if any: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

WHAT SIZE PAVER DO YOU WANT? ____ 4" x 8" - $50
____ 8" x 8" - $100
____ 8" x 8" with _____ graphic - $225
graphic at ____ top or ____ bottom

* contact museum for custom size and placement of graphic, additional charges may apply

Punctuation marks and spaces count as characters!

Please PRINT below what you want on your engraved brick:

Line 1: _
Line 2: _
Line 3: _
Line 4: _
Line 5: _
Line 6: _

Mail form to: AMA Museum, PO BOX 100, FORT DEFIANCE, VA 24437
Include check or money order made payable to AMA Alumni Foundation
OR call the museum at (540) 248-3007 with your credit card information
OR email form to museum@AMAalumni.org, then call with payment information
OR call the museum to place your paver order over the phone.

BAND

AMA

ROLLER RIDERS

ROLLER RIFLES

Revised May 2020

Download the Brick Order Form

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint
October 2020

Editor's Note:
The following expressions are mine alone. I look forward to your feedback. You may contact me directly at:
chairman.amafoundation@amaalumni.org

As I write this, I am slowly marking the days off of my calendar as we pass through the peak of the 2020 hurricane season. This stressful time of year is part of the price I pay for living in a very cool (actually it is warm all year) part of the world. I accept the risk of the wrath of a hurricane and instead of fearing it, I prepare myself as best as I can to face and survive it every single time.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has now been with us for over 7 months! At first, I feared it. But now, I accept it as our new global normal and decided a few months ago, that as I always do with the annual visit of Tropical Hurricane season, to deal with it by carrying a mask whenever I leave the safety of my home, and use common sense to keep myself from contracting the virus. I also accept that there is a pretty good possibility that I may eventually contract the virus. When and if that ever happens, I will deal with it. Period!

We cannot live in fear of what we cannot control!

Taking over the leadership of AMA Foundation has taken a similar track as my COVID-19 path. I was very concerned of what I would find when I closely examined our Museum's state

of health, and discovered that we were well on our way to the ICU!

The team of Board members and Alumni that I have been fortunate to be working with, has done a magnificent job of triage on the patient! As of mid-September 2020, the patient is back home and back to work!

Every time one is confronted with a challenge, large or small, the only way out of the confusion it to work the problem in a calm, cool and strategic manner. Free flowing communication and trust in your teammates to do their job correctly is paramount to find the solutions to your ills.

We have a long way to go before we can sit back, relax and enjoy the fruits of our combined labor. But as with my brush with Hurricane Maria, Earthquake's, political and civil unrest topped with the worst pandemic the world has seen in over 100 years, I am confident that my life will continue to be inspired by the positive outcomes that like-minded, honest and hardworking AMA brothers can bring to fruition!

Remember, today is the best day that you can become active in helping to immortalize our legacy, one that we are all so proud of!

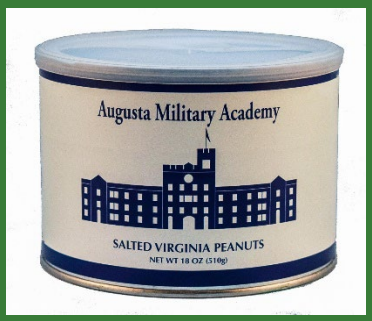
Ad Astra Per Aspera!

Doug out

PX/Gift Shoppe

SHOP HERE

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



BONUS GIFT

Offer ends December 31, 2020

With the purchase of $50 or more from the PX, you will have your choice of one FREE copy of AMA WAY or the ROLLER RIFLE RETIREMENT CD! ($25 Value!)

Note: Shipping and postage will be billed separately.

VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

THE AMA WAY - PART 1

WATCH HERE

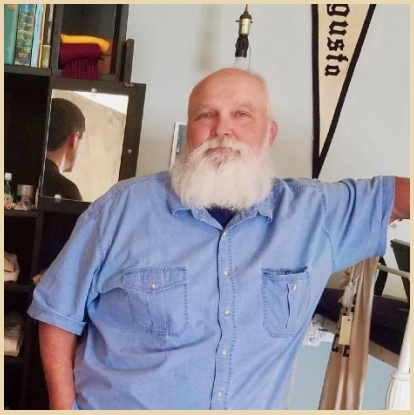
amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Painless Giving

Imagine if you could send the AMA Foundation a little bit of money every time you bought something on Amazon. YOU CAN if you sign up to Amazon Smile.
You are going to buy stuff anyway, why not allow Amazon to help the Museum?

vanBreemen Expressions

Rich vanBreemen is the AMA Museum's interim Administrator/Collections Curator



ROUTE STEP

September 30, 2020

Think back to your AMA days, when you conducted a long march in the field. Unless your commander was a total tight ass, he would have given the ROUTE STEP command. Now you are being moved from one location to another in an orderly fashion without being stuck in a rigid formation. That's sort of how our lives are now in our more advance years. Most of us are either retired or semi-retired. Our day to day aspects of life are not overly structured and hopefully we don't answer to the clock like before. Although the pace is more relaxed, we are still moving forward to our final destination – in route step.
Things like that come to mind in my personal life and when I am working at the museum. In fact, the museum gives me more reason to ponder life than my personal life does. Instead of being focused on just me or maybe my immediate family, I am aware of the larger AMA family. Working to satisfy the needs and desires of that larger family has its own rewards and challenges. The term "the Great Good" comes to mind.
I must acknowledge that I am receiving more from my involvement with the AMA family than I am giving (but that doesn't mean I am screwing off). Living the AMA life vicariously through the lives of the alumni has given me more focus at home. Interaction with you all has shown me how everyday things affect others down the road. I think about my interactions with my old high school friends and what they

mean to me. I did not have the influence of a boarding school. I can only imagine what growing up, studying, AND living with a group of other young men must have been like. More importantly, how that affected your lives and where you are today.
Now that you are going through life in “route step”, it would be a good time to reflect on those AMA days and the people you shared them with. More than likely if you are reading this you already appreciate that bond. But do you ever find yourself saying, “I wonder what ever happened to SO & SO?” Now is a good time to find out. Let us help you reconnect with old friends and classmates; that is part of our mission at the museum. Chris, Ainsley and I are more than happy to assist you with that search. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,
Rich vanBreemen
Interim Museum Administrator/Collections curator

The 2020 FALL BAYONET is now available

READ 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:

Tracy Minnich of Ware Insurance

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.

Augusta Military Academy Museum | 540-248-3007 | Museum@AMAalumni.org | http://www.amaalumni.org
1640 Lee Highway
P.O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437