Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

November - 2020

"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees an opportunity in every difficulty"

-Sir Winston Churchill-

Image captured by Garry Granger '71

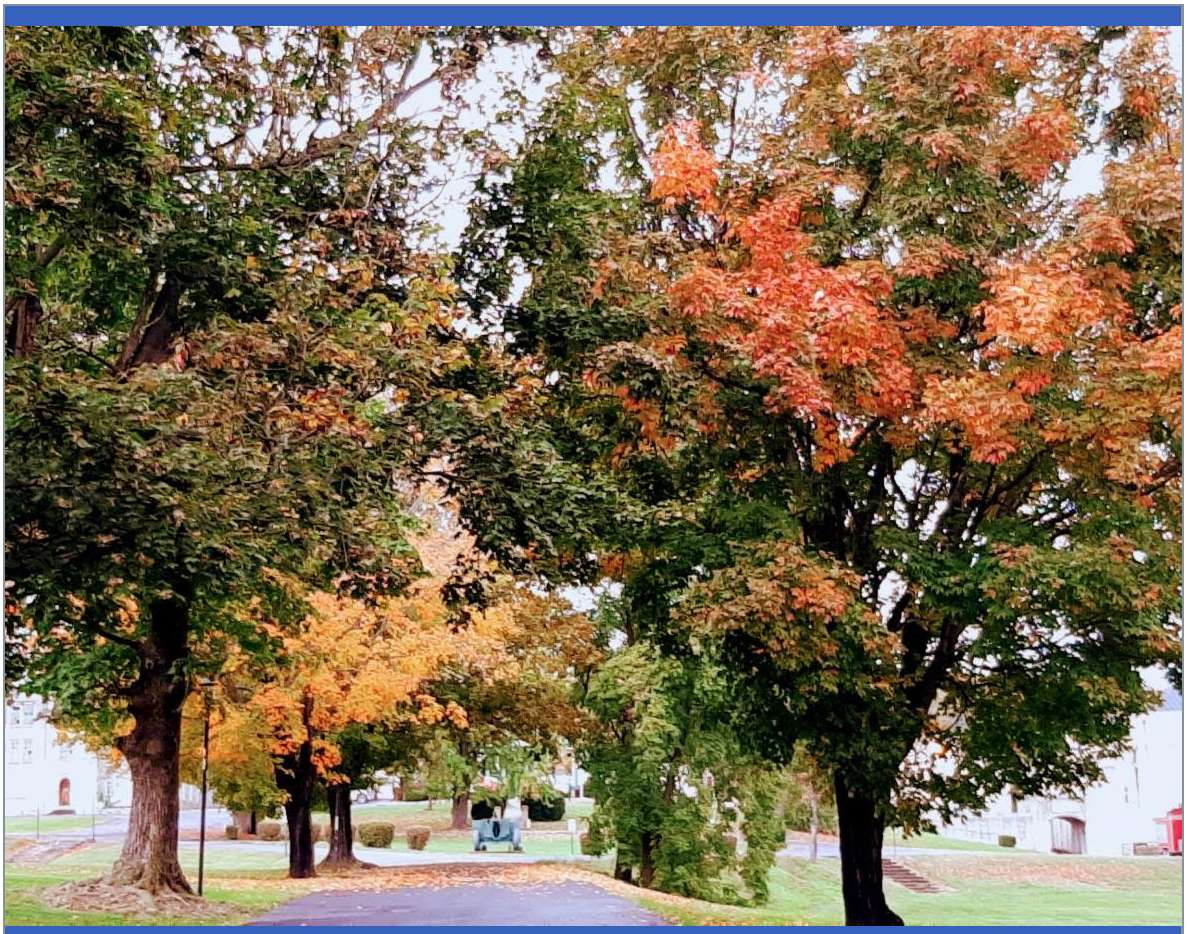


Image captured by Victor Gomez '69

Chairman's Note

November 1, 2020

Greetings fellow Alumni and friends,

November 2020 is finally here and I for one have never been so glad to see a year dissipate into history. We have all been affected by so many

negative events over the last 10 months that our measuring bar for bad stuff has been nudged upward by several clicks!
But as all things in life, there will always be a light at the end of the tunnel. The AMA Alumni Foundation is now moving rapidly towards that light and my optimism for what the future holds has also risen.
The AMA Alumni Foundation Board held their Fall meeting on Saturday October 24. Four board members attended the meeting at the facilities at Hoover Hall and six of us joined in via Zoom.
I cannot emphasize enough how fortunate I am to have such an outstanding group of dedicated, and hard-working people serving on the Foundation Board. Thanks to the combined effort of this team, I can announce with a strong feeling of gratification the following facts:

1. Our Museum staff, led by Rich vanBreemen, is very busy attending to administrative duties, and are all diligently working to care for the house, our collection, museum visitors, the PX, and all of the needs and requests that AMA Alumni require.
2. Financial records are just about 100% buttoned up. Gary Cripps along with Rich and our auditors are working together and have formed a tight synergy fueled by excellent communication and collaboration.
3. Museum insurance policies have been updated and thanks to John Arthur, our coverage is better than in the past, and our annual premiums have been reduced by 50%!
4. The committee structure that I started back in April, has begun to bear fruit. Gary Morrison's Fundraising committee **All Oars In campaign** is very active and hired a highly respected Grant writer this month who will be preparing approximately 30+ grants requesting funds to cover museum operational costs, museum maintenance costs, museum collection preservation costs and most importantly, funds that can be used to purchase a new permanent home to house the AMA Museum. All grants should sent out no later than December 31, 2020.
5. Larry Nicholson's AWOL Committee and his **Who Is Your One** campaign, has managed to contact many AWOL Cadets and more importantly, many of them have committed to attend the 2021 reunion! Some of them for the first time since they graduated from AMA!

6. Jorge Rovirosa and Garry Granger's Reunion Support Committee has worked overtime to assist Steve Trent to prepare and plan a simpler and less stressful reunion format that will allow us all to enjoy our old school campus and most importantly, spend time re connecting with old friends and team mates.

Thanks to the generosity of several Alumni and friends, the Reunion Support Committee has pledges and raised about $11,000 in sponsorship money that will be targeted to cover various Reunion 2021 costs! One consequence driven by the Sponsorship money, is that we will be able to offer everyone superior quality meals and a discount on reunion 2021 registration costs!
Click here to see how you can help sponsor reunion 2021.
A few days after everyone reads this Newsletter, we will all know what the 2020 Election results are. I pray that whoever wins the election, will strive to unify our country, will find a solution to the COVID scourge and will assure the protection of our great Republic from all enemies, foreign or domestic!

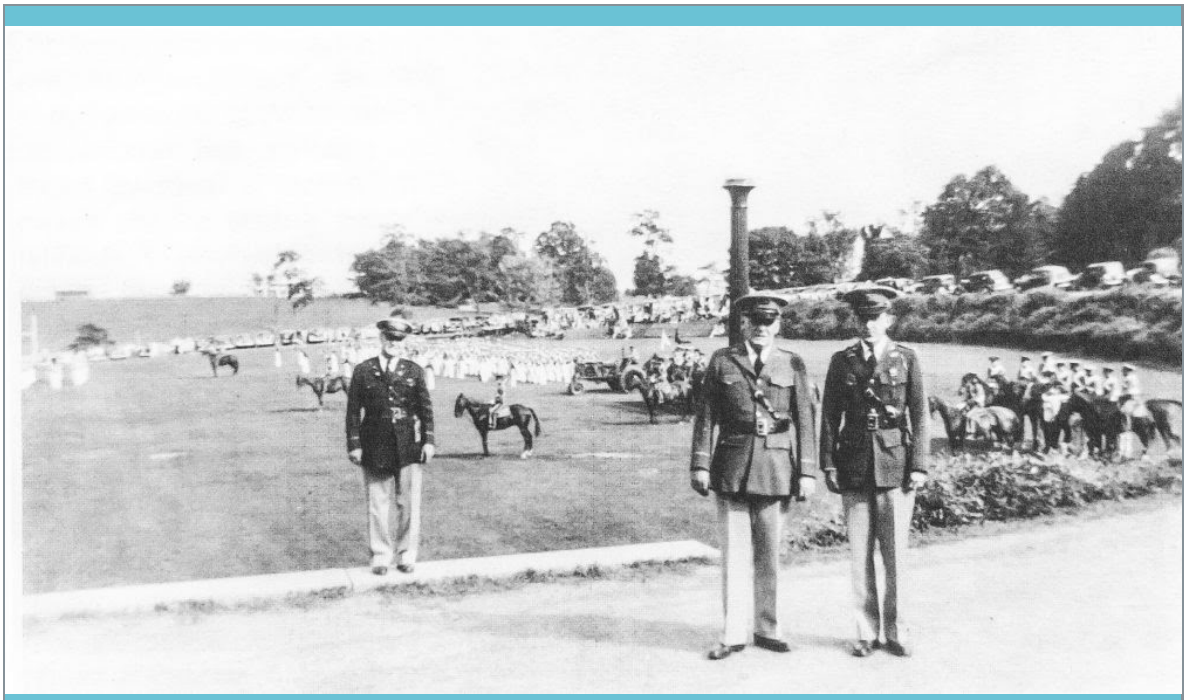
Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that from 1932 to 1941, AMA had a Calvary troop?
Read the history of the AMA Cavalry

HERE



This picture was taken just before World War II, probably in 1940. Augusta's cavalry troop stands ready at a dress parade. At the left, is Major Roller – the Big Boy. In the center stands Colonel Tom Roller, and next to him, his son, Thomas A. Roller.

Home videos of AMA's Cavalry units from the 1930's from the family of Lucien Clarke, '37. Lucien is the father of Blaine Clarke, '72,

HERE

The Ladies of AMA have been activated!!

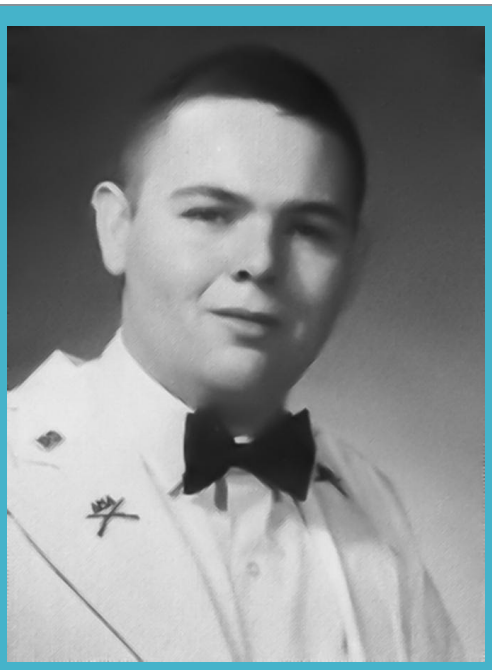
Top - Trudy Pennock, Doug '72
Center - Kiki Rovirosa, Jorge '70
Bottom - Becky Granger, Garry '71

The "Ladies of AMA" are looking for volunteers to help out with Reunion 2021 projects and activities they are working on. Their first project in the agenda is to continue the basket silent auction. Ladies, get inspired and prepare a basket that everyone will want to bid on. It is a fun way to raise money for AMA. If this is something that may interest you send Trudy, Kiki, and Becky a note. Feel free to send your ideas their way...

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

chairman.amafoundation@amaalumni.org

Augusta Military Academy Oral History
MEMORIES FROM OUR ARCHIVES



Rex Rumley '69

January 28, 2002

Wow! My memories of AMA... I can so vividly recall my days there that telling you of my memories would only bore you. Everyday at AMA was a new adventure. Everyday left memories of events and/or people that have stayed in my mind for over 30 years!

I suppose my greatest memory of AMA and the one that will remain in my mind forever would be during my “visit” in 1999 while there for Alumni weekend. I had my son who was nine and my daughter, 11, with my wife and myself. I had the opportunity to walk them through parts of the barracks and classrooms and told them of my time and experiences there. It was with wet eyes that I told them of early rising, formations, classes, drills, PT, and yes, even the Tours I walked. I was able to relive with them some of the things that have made me strong today.

All the while the kids looked in disbelief as they saw what I went through as opposed to what they have now, including school here being canceled when the air conditioners didn’t work! They found

some of the things we went through hard to believe. Then my eight-year-old son asked THE QUESTION, “Dad, what did you do wrong that they MADE you go to school here?” (That question was worth a box of tissues in itself). He couldn’t believe or even understand why I WANTED to go there.

We all have to live with generation changes and I guess I went through a big one that weekend.

Read the entire story HERE

-ALL OARS IN-

Please remember that a monthly pledge from everyone that reads this newsletter means that the future of the "Bayonet" and the Museum will be assured.

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in October!

Victor Gomez '68
Brian Miller '67

Note:

In addition to performing Docent duty this month, Victor Gomez volunteered 52

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

hours working on a special investigative project requested by the Chairman!

Charlie Pascale '69 volunteered 14 hrs. performing upgrades to our computer and telephone system

Visitors in October
112

Groups
45

Museum Volunteer's

We really need Volunteer Docents! Please sign up by calling Chris at the museum.

Alumni Foundation Board Meeting October 24, 2020

Left - Front to back - Willie (Lee) Ramsey Jr. (Guest) 73, Garry Granger (Director) '71, Brett Thompson (Guest) '75

ZOOM Screen - Top - Doug Pennock (Director) '72, John Arthur (Director) '75
Center - Gary Morrison (Director) FMS, Bj. d'Orsay (Director) '70, Larry Nicholson (Director) '75
Bottom - Gordon Metz (Director) '68

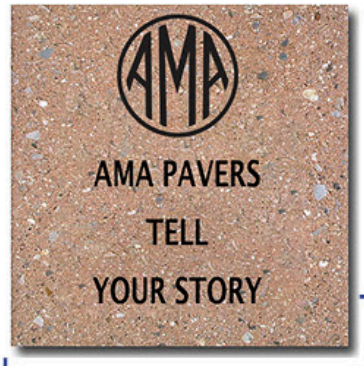
Right - Front to back - Victor Gomez (Guest) '68, Steve Trent (Director) '70, Gary Cripps (Director) '71, Ed Rogerville (Director) '75

AMA Alumni Foundation Board and Museum NEWS

The AMA Foundation Board held their Fall meeting on Saturday October 24, 2020 at Hoover Hall.
Quorum was established at 0930.
All Agenda items were discussed and no action item votes were taken.
The meeting was extremely productive even without a vote as all standing Committee Chairmen reported their progress to the Board and all members and guests were allowed to ask questions and discuss the various reports in detail.
The meeting was adjourned at 1345, fifteen minutes earlier than had been scheduled.
Mr. Willie (Lee) Ramsey 68-73 and his wife arrived in time to have lunch with the Board and stayed until the end of the meeting. Lee has not been back to AMA in 30 years! He has agreed to attend the 2021 Reunion.

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

Punctuation marks and spaces count as characters!

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

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

Brick Order Form

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint
November 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

Relief is on its way.
Everyone lives with recurring natural phenomenon's or seasons that can affect his or her life in a dramatic matter.
Drought, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, hail, blizzards, hurricanes and pandemics are part of the cast of characters.
In my case, hurricanes are the single most worrisome natural event that I dread every year. The five months beginning June 1 through November 30, is the long and uncertain hurricane season.
Although scary and possibly fatal, pandemics seem to roll in only around once every four to five score, so as bad as they are, unless you are currently living through one as we are today, a pandemic is not very high on my recurring bad juju list.
No matter what life throws at us, if we recognize and prepare for all the possible upcoming scenarios, we can be reasonably confident that we will come through all of them totally or maybe nearly unfazed.
A hard-working individual will usually achieve his or her short, medium and long-term goals. Yet one impotent lesson I learned at AMA, was that you will always have a greater chance of achieving success if you work as a team with workmates, family, friends and yes, brother AMA Alumni!
Over the past six months, I along with a dozen or so AMA Alumni and AMA Supporters, have faced an ominous and disturbing challenge in terms of the Museum administration and bookkeeping.
Instead of ignoring the problem, we decided to face it head on, and we vigorously attacked it on all fronts.

Relief is now here, and thanks to the unwavering and aggressive response of the AMA Foundation Board team, we are once again in a position to assure that our organization and Legacy endures for many years to come.

Even though today things may now appear to be running smoothly, we can never take our eye off the ball and slip into a dangerous level of complacency. I for one am up to the challenge, and I know that the vast majority of our Foundation Board, feels that same way. But the only way we can assure our organizations long term success is if everyone that reads this letter joins the team!

You would be amazed at what an incredible sense of satisfaction is felt by all of us when we receive written or phoned in (hopefully positive) feedback from you. We invite every single member of our extended AMA family to join the team. Please call the museum with your comments, send a check or volunteer for a week end of Docent duty or help with a task at our annual Reunion.

Now that would be a BIG relief!

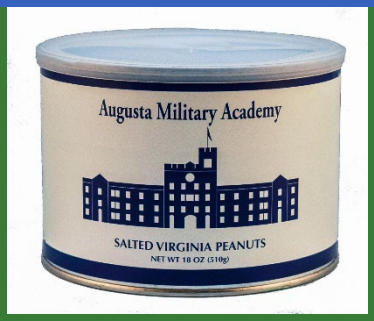
Doug out.

Ad Astra Per Aspera!

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 2

Karl Halemau '71

WATCH HERE

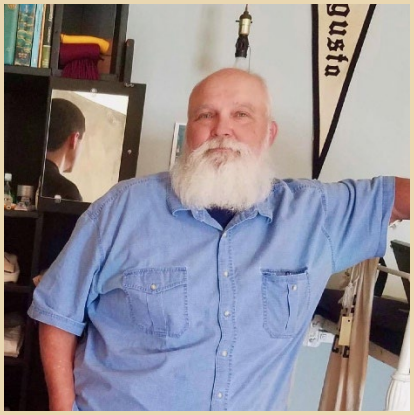
amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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.
ou 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



November 1, 2020

The Dichotomy of Autumn

By Rich vanBreemen

None of us will forget the roller coaster ride that 2020 has been. Just when you think things improve, they turn around. Just when you thought it couldn't get worse, it does. Autumn in general is like that. Just when it's time to get

out the winter clothes, you get a heat wave. If you think there is still some summer left, you wake up to a frosty morning.

As an AMA cadet, you knew the calendar year was coming to an end and yet, as far as school was concerned, it was just beginning! Football may be winding down, but wrestling, swimming, basketball is all right around the corner. Winter break looms on the horizon and the thought of being home to REAL cooking gives you hope. Fall semester will end and those exams will be behind you. Spring semester is too far away to bother you yet.

Before you know it, winter has gone, spring is here and you realize you survived your first (or another) year at AMA! But when you look back, you realize that Autumn was the transitional time. The early shock was gone and you had settled into a routine. Things were moving along and something maybe resembling “comfortable” was where you found yourself.

Autumn in the Shenandoah Valley is magical. Talk to the local folks and they will usually tell you this is the best time of year. Everyone has their own reasons and the cadets of AMA had theirs as well. However, if there is one time of the year that comes close to Autumn in the Valley, it would be spring. They represent the bookends to a normal school year. Spring meant summer uniforms, fresh warm air and the FREEDOM that summer break would bring. Today, looking forward to spring, we see reunion. This is when the Alumni Association shifts into high gear and help bring many of these remembrances back to life. The bad memories fade and the good ones take their place. You have the opportunity to meet

up with old classmates and share stories and lies about the good old days.

So, let's all look forward to 2021 and keep positive thoughts in our hearts and minds. Focus on coming to reunion and rekindle those memories.

Rich vanBreemen
Interim Museum Administrator/Collections curator

The 2020 FALL BAYONET is now available

READ HERE

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

This issue of the AMA Museum Newsletter was sponsored by:
The AMA Alumni Foundation Board

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
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P.O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437