Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

March - 2021

"When you come against trouble, it's never half as bad if you face up to it."

- John Wayne -

Yikes! What a winter!

TEXAS TUNDRA

Tom Del Valle '73 breaking up the ice forming on his swimming pool during the Great Texas freeze of 2021!

Chairman's Note

March 1, 2021

Greetings everyone,

March 11 is just around the corner and I am excited!
That date is very significant to me because it marks the end of my 2 1/2-year bout with cancer and it will be the day that I will arrive to Staunton Virginia for my first visit to the Valley since Reunion 2019.
I will be meeting the Museum staff in person for the first time, and will be staying at our new reunion headquarter hotel The Blackburn Inn, I will visit my favorite restaurants in Staunton and Verona and will be able to enjoy genuine Virginia Country Ham for breakfast every morning! (I'm getting thirsty already)
I look forward to discussing and reviewing museum business with Amy and her staff and giving Rich a hug and slap on the back in appreciation for his invaluable help in keeping our museum secure during those uncertain times when he stepped in as interim Museum Director last summer.
Last but not least, I will also be meeting up with several of my AMA brothers that live in Virginia and two that will be flying in from Texas to join me for the week end.
That is what I am really looking forward to!
This is what you can look forward to whenever you return to your home to catch up with your past and old friends and reminisce what life was like

when the biggest worry you had was to get your shoes to a perfect spit shine and not be late to formation!
Please make plans to attend this year's Alumni Reunion in September. I really think it will be a very special one, plus I look forward to adding all of you to my hug and slap on the back list!!

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Reunion 2021 is Rescheduled to September!

The Reunion Support Committee, in collaboration with Steve Trent, President of the AMA Alumni Association, have decided to move the 2021 Alumni Reunion to September 17-18.

The committee felt that the restrictions regarding large gatherings by the State of Virginia, and concerns by most of the Alumni regarding the transmission of COVID -19 was still too great for the April dates.

There is much optimism regarding the commencement of the COVID vaccinations and that most if not all of us should have gotten our vaccination by September 2021. Trudy and I got our first shot a few days ago, and shortly after our second booster shot 28 days later, we plan on

taking our first non medical trip together since the Pandemic began in early 2020!
The Reunion Support Committee believes that most Alumni will also feel much more comfortable attending the reunion in September if they are also inoculated.
The Blackburn Inn has agreed to honor the $99 per night room rate for the reunion weekend, so I suggest you make a reservation as soon as you can. Space in the hotel is limited to about 50 rooms.

We will keep everyone posted via this newsletter right up to Reunion 2021.

NOTE:
Any person that registered at the Blackburn Inn for the April dates does not need to change anything. The Blackburn Inn has automatically changed our reservations to the September dates and will be sending everyone a written notification soon. If you have made a reservation for the April dates and do not receive the notification from Blackburn Inn, you should call them to assure your September reservation.
If you reserved at any other hotel for the April dates, you must cancel them and make the appropriate new reservations.

Register early for the September 17-18 Reunion!

The earlier everyone registers, the sooner the Reunion Committee can plan for all of the catering needs!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Founders Day at the Old Stone Church Cemetery - Reunion 2109

The Fall of 2021, the AMA Museum will be celebrating 21 years of sharing the history of AMA with the world.
Come to the Alumni reunion in September 2021 and see how many memories you will have roused!

AMA MEDAL

Nominations for this years recipients of the AMA Medal are now open. The members of the AMA Medal selection Committee are Steve Trent, Frank Williamson and Ed Rogerville.
This Medal nomination cycle will include 2020 and 2021, and up to three candidates will be chosen for each year.
Nominations should be presented in writing in a two or three paragraph explanation touching on your candidates merits. The deadline to submit a nomination will be March 31, 2021. Please send your nominations to: **grimsley@mindspring.com**

PISTOL RAFFLE 2021

Tickets for a chance to win this engraved Rock Island Armory 1911 .45 ACP pistol are on sale now!

Ticket cost are $25.00

A maximum of 250 tickets will be sold

You may purchase tickets by contacting the Museum at 540-248-3007 or Pistol Raffle Tickets

The winning raffle number will be drawn at the Saturday evening Reunion event. You do not need to be present to win!

You must be 21 years or older to participate in this raffle.
This raffle is void where prohibited by law.

AMA Foundation News

Winter Foundation Board Meeting

The AMA Alumni Foundation held our Winter meeting on February 13, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom and quorum was established at 0930 hrs.
Our new office administrator, Amy Hensley was welcomed by the Board and she then went on to give us her first museum status report.
Several important items were discussed and were voted on.

The most important action items were:

1. **Electronic voting for the April 2021 AMA Foundation Directors**. A motion was made to allow electronic voting for the April 2021 Director's election. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
The Board also discussed amending the By-laws to allow electronic voting for the available Director positions at all future elections. This proposed By-law change will be discussed and voted on at the June 2021 Board meeting. The Board feels that because the 2020 electronic election turnout was so successful, where over 120 ballots were cast, we can offer every active alumni the opportunity to participate in the election process from wherever they may be.

2. **The suspension of printing the Bayonet**. A motion was made to suspend the printing of the Bayonet with the understanding that if any Alumni or friend, wished to receive a printed version, they would have the option to pay for each issue. Individual issues will cost $25.00 and a one-year subscription will cost $90.00. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1300 hrs.

Nominations for AMA Alumni Foundation Board members

Nominations are now open for the 2021-2024 Foundation Board seats. The following 4 incumbents have expressed their desire to continue on the Board:

Garry Cripps '71
Bj. d'Orsay '70
Doug Pennock '72
Ed Rogerville '75

Any member of the AMA Alumni or qualified members, may present a nomination for a qualified candidate other than the four incumbents. Please refer to Article II Section 2.1 and 2.2 of the AMA Foundation By-laws **AMA Foundation By-Laws**. The nomination deadline will be March 15, 2021. Electronic voting will commence on March 17 and will close on April 16. **You will be sent a link that will grant you access to the election process no later than March 17. The link will also appear on the AMA Webpage and on AMA related social media.**

All nominations should be sent to John Arthur
at: **john.arthur5@cox.ne**

AMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The nominees for the 2021 Sports hall of fame are in and nominations are closed.

This years nominees are:

Mike Basto '63 for Football, Lacrosse, swimming and tennis.
Karl Halemau for Lacrosse
Bruce Strange for Lacrosse
Jim Mitchell for Basketball, Baseball and Rugby
Col. Tim Mannasmith for Coach of multiple sports and Athletic Director

The 2021 class will be announced in April of 2021 and the awards will be given at the September 2021 reunion.

The winners of the 2020 AMA Sports Hall of Fame awards are:

Maj. Ed Hart Coach
George Richardson '64
Charlie Livick '77

They will be recognized at the September 2021 reunion.

Who is your ONE?

Reach out to an old classmate, roommate or teammate today! Challange them to attend Reunion 2021 in September!

The Ladies of AMA have been activated!!

Trudy Pennock, Doug '72
Kiki Rovirosa, Jorge '70
Becky Granger, Garry '71

We haven't heard from many ladies. Now that Reunion 2021 has been re-scheduled to September you have more time time to reach out to us if you would like to help at the reunion or have suggestions for the AMA

ladies activities. Contact Trudy Pennock at trudypennock@yahoo.com.

Augusta Military Academy Oral History
MEMORIES FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Bob Graber, ‘48

June 13, 2001

I had started a long letter telling you all the things that I remembered about AMA but the following succinctly expresses my feelings-- I begged my Mother in the summer of 1944 to send me to a military school. She picked AMA because Joe Goldfard went there and he and I were friends even though he was three years older than me.

I loved AMA from the moment we drove up the road. For the four years that I went there I could not wait until September to start school with my friends. I abhorred May because I knew that it would be a long summer before I came back to the school that I loved.

o.k.--I’ll tell you some of the things that I can remember from my rat year-- First night a bunch of upper classmen came around to haze us. I can only remember one name, Rockwell-he came into the room

after I had my pants removed, made to sit on the metal desk and had my finger ready to be stuck into the light socket. Rockwell told the others to stop it.

I became the dyke of one of the cadet Lts. - in case you forgot that meant making his bed, cleaning his room, picking up his laundry, etc. There were three other upper classmen in the room so there were a total of 4 dykes. One was my cadet captain - last name of Stanley, forget his first name but not Paul who was also a captain. This guy always slept late until last call and then would go out to formation with his overcoat on and pants legs sewed to the bottom of his coat so in actuality all he had on under the overcoat was his underwear.

Read the entire story HERE

-ALL OARS IN-

MUSEUM

DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in February!

Victor Gomez '69

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.

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

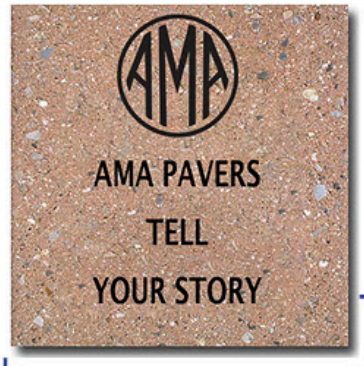
Ed Rogerville '75

Visitors in February

20

Museum Volunteer's

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



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

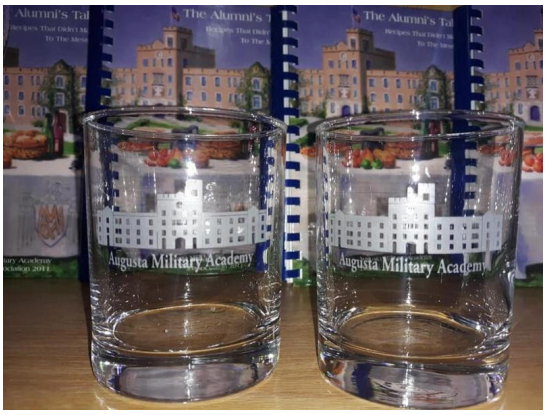
Paver Brick's were the most profitable single item sold at the Museum in 2020!

Please order yours TODAY!

Brick Order Form

PX/Gift Shoppe

SHOP 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?

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint
March 2021

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

Dear fellow Alumni and friends,

I got my second COVID shot yesterday, and for the first time in a year, I now feel reasonably safe to move around freely, and am able travel and partake in activities to what is closer to my pre COVID life. Being able to live your day-to-day life without the additional tormenting threat of catching a deadly virus will certainly improve Trudy and my quality of life!
We all share a common expectation, which is to live and enjoy the last half of our lives in good health and with the love and company of our friends and family. That human interaction, assures that our individual and family history and legacy will be kept alive for generations.
Over the past few years, I have had conversations with various brother AMA Alumni regarding their thoughts about what will happen to our Museum and the AMA legacy after we all are no longer around. I was disappointed when many of my Alumni brothers expressed to me that they really don't care about our museum's future after we are all gone

because nobody would be around that cares for anything relating to AMA!
I respectfully disagree with that mindset! So, I have made it my mission to create a structure in our organization that will assure that our Museum and Legacy will survive for many years after we are all gone. (A Legacy-Descendent Steering Committee if you will) This group of AMA Descendants and friends, would be the Genesis of what the future leadership of the AMA Museum Foundation would become.
I know that many of our Alumni Brothers have shared their AMA stories, adventures and passion for our alma matter with sons, daughters, grandkids and maybe even great grandkids. I also know that the stories and passion that we transmitted to our offspring and their offspring was burned into many of their minds and souls. So, even though they never attended AMA, they "get it"!
Both my sons fall into that category. Doug and Shawn know how to "chalk", know who Col. Hoover, Col Livick, Major 'Big Ed Hart, Col Savage and Trigger are. They know about the life in the Barracks, Benny the Barber, marching everywhere, mess hall food and town leave on Mondays or Saturdays was like. They even know what "The Sinks" means.

Case in point:
Everyone knows that Trudy is taking the lead with the "Ladies of AMA" for this year's reunion in September. Trudy received a note yesterday from Miss Ashley K. Jones, past recipient of an AMA Legacy Scholarship and granddaughter of Albert "Buddy" E. Krise III AMA '57. Ashley is currently a Sophomore at UVA and is studying nursing and she receives the Bayonet and this monthly Newsletter. Ashley reached out to Trudy because she wanted to volunteer to be part of the "Ladies of AMA" for this year's reunion in September!
Ashley wrote Trudy the following in her letter: "My grandfather Buddy, had a lot of love and dedication for his alma mater and I have the same love and dedication he had for his school"

I am absolutely convinced that there are hundreds of AMA Alumni descendants that feel exactly as Ashley does, and that is why I am so optimistic about the long-term continuance of our legacy!

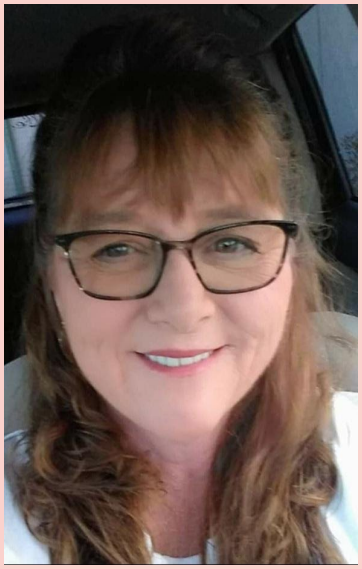
Doug out

Ad Astra Per Aspera!

VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

1997 REUNION SPEECH BY MICKEY GORDON '37

Watch the Video Here



From the Administrators Desk

February 27, 2021

As we move past Winter and begin to see Spring slowly awake, great things are blooming here at the AMA Museum. Covid19 vaccines are being administered throughout the country and people will be out and about traveling around our great country. I and the staff here at the Museum are looking forward to guiding visitors through the tour of the wonderful history of Augusta Military Academy. We are giving the PX a fresh new look with the redesigning of displays and addition of a few new items and we are optimistic for a very busy Spring and Summer.

In September the campus comes back to life with Reunion 2021 and all the great stories and heartwarming memories being shared by the returning Alumni. For all attending it will be like a moment relived of the past. I and the Museum staff look forward to seeing you all and are greatly anticipating a weekend of fun, friend and fond memories for you all.

With warm regards,

Amy Hensley
Office Administrator, AMA Alumni Museum
Cordially,

vanBreemen Expressions

Spring has Sprung

by: Rich vanBreemen
March 1, 2021

At the time of this writing, spring is officially 20 days away (March 20). It will be here before the publication of the next newsletter, so accept this as your warning notice. I can't say what spring is like in your area, but here in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, it signals the start of YARD SALE SEASON! Let me tell you, these people take their yard sales seriously. There are events like "The Route 11 Crawl": For one weekend, all along Route 11 (over 43 miles long), people set up sales in their front yards and folks travel from hundreds of miles away to look for bargains or that unique "must have" item. (Google it if you don't believe me).

On weekends, in any given sub-division there are numerous scheduled yard sales and the impromptu ones that set up because their neighbor has one and you don't want to waste a good opportunity to move some "treasures". The hard-core buyers are out in force, usually just as the rooster is starting to make noise.

Akin to the yard sale, are the auctions. These vary from well-orchestrated events with an auctioneer and in person bidding to your typical silent auction types, usually conducted in church basements. Every one of these events draws a crowd and some spirited activity. A more recent development, is the use of online auctions and these get people salivating over deals like a fat kid over a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup.

All of that text was to warm you up for what I tell you now: the AMA Reunion is jumping on the ONLINE AUCTION bandwagon hard and fast. I know you have had silent auctions in the past, but this year, for various reasons (Covid-19, schedule changes, limited travel, etc.) we will be running the Reunion Auction with online bidding. Mike Kidd and myself were "volunteered" to set this up and get it running. Details on how this works, how you can bid and so forth will be made available to everyone very soon. But let me say, one BIG advantage is that the auction (and thus the funds it creates for the AMA Association) gets a worldwide audience – not just the folks in the old school gymnasium.

As with everything in life, there are advantages and disadvantages. We recognize that, and are working to minimize the disadvantages; thus, playing up the ADVANTAGES. Here is where YOU (everyone reading this Newsletter) come in: we are actively seeking donations of items or services for the auction. This does not mean cleaning out your garage of stuff you just can't seem to throw away. It does mean, however, that if you have some choice items sitting around you have never used, or you have a weekend cottage you would be willing to share for a weekend, maybe you run a fishing charter or a restaurant, we need your help. PLEASE reach out to Mike Kidd or myself and we will let you know how we can include your items or services in the auction. Detailed information is forthcoming, but please start thinking about how you can help out now.

This has the potential of being a HUGE boost to the financial well being of the Association and the Museum. We are looking forward to a successful launch of this endeavor, but success depends on your participation from both ends of the system. Stay tuned for more information soon.

Rich vanBreemen
Curator, Museum of the Augusta Military Academy

The 2020 SPRING BAYONET

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 class of 1865

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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