Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

April - 2021

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

-Benjamin Franklin-

Chairman's Note

April 1, 2021

Greetings everyone,

Happy Easter everyone!
I finally made it back to Ft. Defiance after a nearly two-year hiatus. It was very nice catching up with the AMA brothers who accompanied me on the trip and with the brothers that I met up with in Virginia while I was at the Museum.
Amy, Rich. Chris and Ainsley are really fine people, and I feel even more confident that our Museum is in very capable hands after having spent some face-to-face time with them. Every one of them is engaged and focused on their jobs and responsibilities.
Our Foundation elections are currently in play via electronic vote, and I expect that we will have a terrific voter turnout that will match or even exceed last years. Remember that you have until April 16 at midnight before the polls close.
John Arthur and the other Election committee members, Frank Williamson and Gordon Metz, will announce the election results after the process is completed. Shortly after the election results, the new Foundation Board will assemble and we will elect Officers for 2021-2022.
I am even more confident every day that as the population of our country receive their vaccinations to protect them from COVID, the probability of a September Reunion occurring is excellent. Please fill out your registration forms and book your hotel for the week end of September 17-18. I have spoken to many Alumni that have indicated to me that they will be attending this year's event. Many of whom, have missed the last few

reunions! It will be a real treat and pleasure to see each and every one of you!
The Board is still very active working on all of our various projects and agendas. I will admit that this year has passed very quickly and if you have been reading this newsletter every month, you know how busy everyone has been.
I will be publishing a special Museum Newsletter later in April after the election results with my State of the Foundation Report. That Newsletter will mark the end of my year as Chairman, and I will share all of our accomplishments over the past 12 months.

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Reunion 2021 September 17-18!

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.

You may call to make reservations at: 540-712-0601

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

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 or
5 tickets for $100.00

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

Electronic Elections for AMA Alumni Foundation Board members has begun.

The four nominees are:

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

To vote, you may do so at this link:

VOTE HERE

Electronic polls close at midnight April 16

Foundation Directors visit the Museum in March

Chairman, Doug Pennock, Vice-Chairman, Tom Del Valle, Secretary, John Arthur and Member, Garry Granger met in Staunton on Thursday evening March 11, 2021 to begin our week end visit. Most of the day Friday was spent at the Museum discussing Foundation business and chatting with the Museum Staff.
I met privately with Amy for about one hour getting to know each other and sharing ideas regarding the Museum operation. We spent time at the museum on Saturday and Sunday where Victor Gomez and Brett Tompson met up with us. Late Sunday morning we performed some landscaping maintanence to the house thank's to the help of Brett Tompson and his handy chainsaw, then we went up to explore the Old AMA Slaughterhouse.

The AMA Museum team

The Old Slaughterhouse

On Sunday March 14, 2021, we visited the old AMA Slaughterhouse which was located about 200 yards up the hill due South of the old tennis courts. We were able to salvage a large iron caldron that is now on the Museum property and will probably be converted into a unique flower pot!

The salvaged Caldron

Brett Tompson '75 inside the Slaughterhouse

Stephen Goodman AMA 1961-1964 Wrote:

"I remember when the slaughterhouse was in use. The slaughtered meat would be removed from the meat hooks and placed on an open wagon to be towed to the mess hall. This wagon would pass under windows behind Big Barracks. Imagine what came out of those windows."

"I first attended AMA September 1966 and the Slaughterhouse was no longer in use, so I assume that it was shut down shortly after **The Big Boy** passed".
DWP

AMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

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

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

The winners of the 2021 AMA Sports Hall of Fame will be announced in the May issue of the Museum Newsletter.

All winners 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!

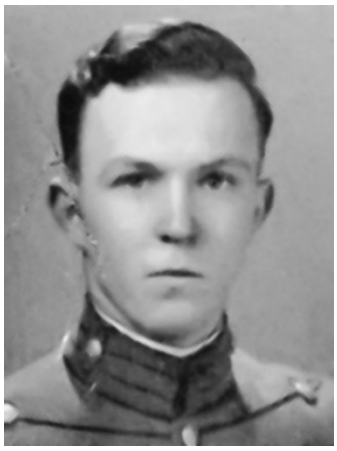
The Ladies of AMA have been activated!!

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

Reunion 2021 has been re-scheduled to September which means 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



Joseph Andicko, '43

08/06/2001

Our Generation:

Some things stay with us forever - the Kennedy assassination, the clang of a streetcar, the songs we knew by heart, the smile of someone special... but the most notable was the day that the Japs attacked Pearl Harbor, on December 7th, 1941. On that day, several cadets and I ventured down Route No. 11 to the only roller skating rink in Augusta County, located in Verona, Virginia.

We had a wonderful time that afternoon and little did we know what dramatic events happened that day, which would affect all of our lives. We left the roller skating rink, hitch-hiking our way back to the barracks when we were picked up by the PMS&T Sergeant stationed at AMA. He provided us with all the news in detail about

the events that happened at Pearl Harbor and he told us that he would be leaving soon for active duty.

From that moment on, everything changed at AMA. It was like we had entered into a wartime mode in the everyday life of the things we had taken for granted. We knew what we had to do, and how to do it.

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 March!

Doug Pennock '72
Tom Del Valle '73
Garry Granger '71
John Arthur '75
Victor Gomez '69
Brian Miller '67

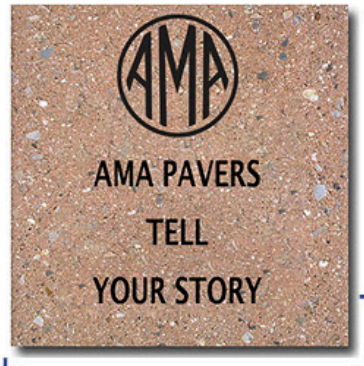
SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

Visitors in March

40

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

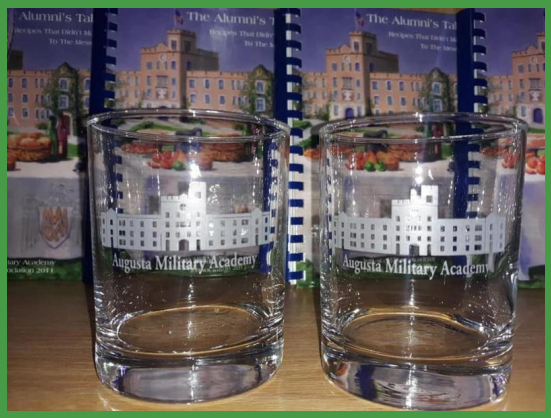
Paver Brick's were the most profitable single item sold at the Museum in 2020!

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
April 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 have always enjoyed returning to the place where I went from boyhood to manhood so many years ago. It amazes me that after 55 years since I first arrived in Virginia on that hot September day in 1966, so little has changed in Augusta county.
The scenery and landmarks on the drive to and from Ft. Defiance to Staunton via Route 11 seem to have been frozen in time. Granted, many pastures are now planted in grapes to feed the nouveau winery's that are popping up thought the Shenandoah Valley. The old Drive-In on the way to Verona only has an old rusty sign as evidence it was ever there. Brooks Restaurant, where you could eat the best BBQ sandwiches in the Valley is now a Mexican Restaurant. Thank goodness the owners finally decided to remove the ridiculous Mexican Poncho and oversized dark glasses from the fiberglass Black Angus Cow that sits on the roof!
The old Tasty Freeze in Verona where we would call and have fried chicken delivered to the barracks on late Sunday afternoons after Parade is gone. The Ingleside Hotel is now an empty shell but the golf course has survived. Yet, all in all, the drive that I took hundreds of times via bus or my parents' car is still amazingly similar to what it was more than a half century ago.
The local rural countryside is beautiful, I swear that the cows that are pasturing in the fields along Route 11 are really stuffed animals made from the bovines that roamed those pastures so many years ago.
Staunton is also eerily the same. The SMA campus looks the same, but instead of cadets dressed in grey, the kids walking around are now Mary

Baldwin University students! The walk down Beverly street from Stuart Hall to South Main gives me a sense of déjà vu. Only some of the names in front of the old building facades have changed. What was once Western State Hospital, one of our country's oldest mental care facilities, is now a hotel. Most of the changes are subtle, and I have no problem with that.

Yet some of the changes have been forced upon all of us by the unrelenting pressure of today's newest politically correct craze that if you dislike what occurred in our past, then, you should be compelled and allowed to eradicate any evidence that it actually occurred!

This sad reality hit me between the eyes last weekend when I realized that the grand old Stonewall Jackson Hotel, the place where my grandfather, father and I would stay when we were each brought to AMA by our parents, has now been renamed the Hotel 24 South. Yup, the Civil war never occurred folks! Now that we are in the midst of "our society is evolving movement" we should take the opportunity to demolish and erase any evidence of all of the WWII Nazi concentration camps in Europe, return Manhattan to the Wecquaesgeek tribe who had it sold under their noses to the Dutch West India Company by the Canarsees tribe who did not even control that spec of island! And so on….

Now that the "rewrite our history" movement is very well entrenched throughout our great country, I feel a sense of relief that none of that horrific history that I was taught all of my life was true! Whew! What a relief!

In 1905, only 40 years after General Lee's surrender to General Grant at the Appomattox Court House, the great Spanish Philosopher, Gorge Santayana wrote his most famous aphorism, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it". Perhaps Don Gorge had a vision of the future... Spooky right?

I for one, have always tried to learn from my mistakes, my history if you will. I believe that this common-sense personal philosophy is one that most rational people would agree with and possibly practice. The meticulous study and preservation of our history, although on many,

many occasions not pretty, must never be forgotten or we will be condemned to repeat it...

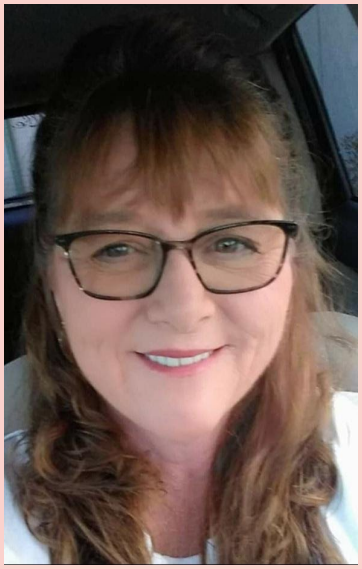
Doug out

Ad Astra Per Aspera!

VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

1997 REUNION SPEECH BY MICKEY GORDON '37

Watch the Video Here



From the Administrators Desk

April 1, 2021

Happy Spring!

Our overhaul of the challenge coin exhibit is in its final phase. It's been a team effort with our intern, Ainsley Bloomfield, researching and writing the history of every coin. Curator Rich van Breemen precision-built a new display from scratch. Docent Chris Correa took photographs to capture the intricacies of each coin. With our work done, BJ d'Orsay will soon take over to build the words and pictures into a document to accompany the exhibit at the museum and on our website.

Rich, Chris, Ainsley and I are working on getting the museum spruced up for Spring. We are just about done with the reset of the PX and will be working next on pictures of new items to be added to the PX on the website. I encourage you to keep checking the website for new items and even some discounted pricing on old items.

We are always looking for docent volunteers to give tours to visitors on the weekends. If you can help please call the museum and give Chris dates you are available.

If you haven't already registered for the Reunion 2021 I encourage you to visit the AMA website to register or give us a call at the museum.

Amy Hensley
Office Administrator, AMA Alumni Museum

vanBreemen Expressions

April 1, 2021

What is a Museum?

By: Rich vanBreemen

Now that Amy Hensley is in firm control of the Museum's administration, I am free to turn my attention back to the historical and research aspects of the Museum. That sounds very grandiose and free spirited, but it also gives me food for thought.

This past week, we were contacted by the granddaughter of an alum; Charles Cunningham '21, who spent 2 years at AMA. After graduation, he did what so many other cadets before and after him did – they lived their lives as best they could. Mr. Cunningham was not famous, was never wealthy, didn't have a glorious military career. He was a normal man, who lived a good life and raised his family and died too young (59 years old). His granddaughter (Anne) told me she had his Rules and Regulations book (dated 1915) given to him and his roommate (Kavanaugh). She also had some photos and background of his time in the service during the war. She apologized for not having anything more "interesting" like his uniform or such.

Checking my records, I realized we had very little information on Cadet Cunningham, not even his birthday. Several messages back and forth between myself and Anne, and we are finding out more and more about Mr. Cunningham. She asked if his brothers had been to AMA but there is no evidence of that. I explained to her that tuition was not cheap and his family probably couldn't afford to send more than one boy. BJ provided the information that Cunningham was a Cadet Waiter while at AMA, thus working his way through school. I learned he was the 2nd of four boys – so why did HE get to go to AMA and not the oldest or youngest? Was he a good student? So many questions.

That is when it hit me – as a museum, what are we here for? Do we merely display the artifacts of a long defunct school whose time has come and gone? A uniform jacket, flag or sword are cool to look at, but

tell us almost nothing. What is the STORY behind those artifacts? How can we learn what they meant to the original owner and what do they mean to us today? Unless that owner is still with us, or left us an oral history like on our web page (hint hint), we haven't got much to go on. So many of the school's original records have vanished and what remains is spotty. It's like putting a complicated puzzle together with no photo and you're not sure if you have all the pieces.

Don't get me wrong, the items we have on display and in our collection are wonderful; in some cases, priceless. Our visitors appreciate the visual aspect of the museum and we strive to keep that fresh. But the HOOK, the thing that captivates our visitors are the stories. Chris and Ainsley both do a great job of relating pertinent stories from alum as they give their guided tours. It's a tale that has over 8000 characters in it and each one with their own story to tell

The written records; old letters, diaries, books, etc., contain those stories. Unfortunately, they are often the first thing to be tossed away during a "purge". It probably plays out something like this: A few weeks after grandpa has been laid to rest, the family is cleaning out his things to help move grandma into a new place. They find a carboard box labeled AMA and inside there are a few folders with papers, maybe a few photos, a Recall or two and a grey wool jacket and dried leather belt with buckle. They pause for a moment, wondering what to do with this "stuff". At worst, they toss it all in the trash; possibly give the jacket to the Goodwill. If they are ambitious, they look up AMA, find us on the web and send us the jacket, belt and Recalls. The rest gets tossed. And with that, all of the history, the stories and the "legacy" of those items goes in the landfill.

If we are to accurately tell the story of AMA and more importantly, the story of the PEOPLE who gave it meaning, then we need all the ammunition we can get. Those papers, your stories and photos are what will keep the AMA Legacy alive. Don't let it become the junk our kids toss away when we're gone. You can reach out to me at anytime if you want to share or need some advice on how to preserve your

story. Without that information, eventually our museum becomes just another collection of old stuff no one can relate to.

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

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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