Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

July - 2021

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

- **- Mahatma Gandhi -**

Chairman's Note

July 1, 2021

Dear readers,

Happy 245th Birthday America!!

The Summer season has finally arrived and our air conditioners are set on high, barbeques are being dusted off and road trips are being planned and our shorts and flip flops are the uniform of the day, unless of course you are still performing a full-time job that requires shoes and long pants… The visitor count at the museum is slowly rising and PX sales are brisk thanks to the watchful eye and retailing savvy that Amy brings to the job!

I sense that we as a country are beginning to feel that the COVID scourge is finally starting to abate and that we are slowly gaining back “normalcy” in our day to day lives.
The AMA Foundation Board held our quarterly meeting on June 19th.
I attended the meeting from my office at home via Zoom but there was a good turnout of many directors at the Museum. Quorum was established at 0935 hrs. Amy Hensley treated everyone in attendance to a homemade pulled pork lunch which was much appreciated and devoured by everyone.
The September reunion was a major topic of conversation. All standing Committee Chairs gave their reports and the meeting wrapped up with our Treasurer Gary Cripps presenting the Board with our January 1, 2021 to May 30, 2021 financial results.
I am very pleased to announce, that because of the strict cost controls and overall savings in our business operations, we were able to manage a tiny year to day profit compared to a $17,500 year to date loss in operations for the same period in 2020!! That is a very encouraging trend, but we must finish out the year before we can begin any kind of celebrations…
Gary also reported that the Foundation is currently in close contact with the IRS negotiating the abatement of a series of fines, penalties and interest that have been levied on us regarding Tax years 2018, 2019 and Q1 of 2020.
I expect to be able to offer everyone a full report on this matter by the September reunion.
I am also pleased to report that Mr. Brett Thompson was unanimously selected by the Board of Directors to fill the seat that was left vacant when Gary Morrison stepped down in March. Welcome back Brett!

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

AMA FOUNDATION NEWS

July - 2021

I would like to ask everyone to please remember and if you feel the need, to say a prayer for all of the victims, family and friends of the tragedy at the Champlain Towers South in Surfside Florida.

The Foundation Board met on June 19th 2021. Five directors were present at the Museum Conference Room and five members attended via Zoom. Three members were excused.
Secretary John Arthur declared that quorum had been reached at 0940hrs. The first order of business was to welcome Brett Thompson on to the board to replace the vacancy left by Gary Morrison in April. Brett will serve the remainder of Gary's term which will expire in April of 2022. Welcome back to the Board, Brett!
All Committee chairs gave their reports, starting off with Gorge Rovirosa's Reunion Support Committee. Jorge reported that everything is in place for R-2021 but we are still looking for volunteers to help with various tasks. Please reach out to George, Garry Granger or Steve Trent if you are interested in helping out…

Noble Legends

Our second Noble Legends monthly speaker presenter was Mr. Tom Beam, an AMA Alumnus, who shared his experience and knowledge of the Virginia Tec Corps of Cadets.
The Noble Legends speaking tour will continue throughout the summer.

–

The Online PX

Our newest Foundation Board Committee Chairman, Mike Basto '63 will be kicking off an eBay centered AMA Alumni Foundation E-Commerce store.
Mike has turned eBay commerce into his full time job after retiring from his day job and will be assisting the Museum staff in the hows', do's and don'ts of this style of marketing.
Mike has donated dozens of items that will be used to kick off the store along with many items that will be offered at the silent auction before and during Reunion 2021.
All AMA Alumni will always have first choice on the items that will appear on the eBay store along with a discount before the items are offered to the general public. We will announce more on this exciting fundraising initiative in future Newsletters and Facebook.

Ed Rogerville '76

Ed Rogerville announced to the Foundation Board that he will be stepping down as a Director immediately due to the excessively long hours required for his work, thus making it impossible for him to properly serve on the AMA Foundation Board.
We wish Ed much luck in the future.

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

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

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

(As of May 31, over 150 tickets have been 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.

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

The ladies of AMA have planned an art activity for the ladies attending reunion this year with our own in-house artist, Kiki Rovirosa. Let's have some coffee and tea as Kiki helps us bring out our creativity. The event is

scheduled for Friday, September17, 2:00pm-3:30pm at Hoover Hall. If you are not doing the bus tour on Friday plan to join us...and yes, the guys are also welcome.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out during reunion. An email will go out next week to the hubbies but addressed to you ladies. Make sure they share it with you. The email will have a document where you can add your name on the areas you would like to help. All you need to do is send the information to Trudy Pennock at trudypennock@yahoo.com.

Augusta Military Academy Oral History
MEMORIES FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Duke Fancher, '58

June 14, 2003

The Christmas Tree Doc Savedge often visited New York City for the first few days of each Christmas vacation before going to Richmond to be with his family. He had many friends in New York and did quite a bit of Christmas shopping during those visits to The Big Apple.
By Christmas of my third year at AMA, Doc knew members of my family pretty well. My mother lived in Washington, D.C., but

we generally spent the Christmas holidays in New York with an aunt and uncle, who lived in an apartment in Manhattan.
One particular Christmas, the decision was made that I would travel directly to New York with Doc and my mother would arrive there later. Sometime before Christmas of 1956, my aunt mentioned something to Doc about the difficulties of buying a really nice Christmas tree in Manhattan. He asked her exactly what she was looking for and that began a Christmas I will never forget... Doc gave Peter Kelley, '59, and me the assignment to get the Jeep and wander around the back roads of Fort Defiance and look for a cedar tree which met Doc's very detailed specifications. It had to be a certain height, a certain circumference, no double trunk and perfectly symmetrical. Once we identified a tree, we were to mark it and take him to see it. It took several afternoons of searching for us to find what we thought was the ideal one.
Quite typically, Doc didn't like our first selection. I remember it was damned cold that December and there was no heat in the Jeep, of course, but what the heck, we were 16 and on a mission. Finally, THE tree was selected and we cut it down as low to the ground as possible, following Doc's instructions, and removed it from some farmer's fence line. I'm sure that we must have asked permission to do that, but I have no specific recollection of doing so.

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.

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in June

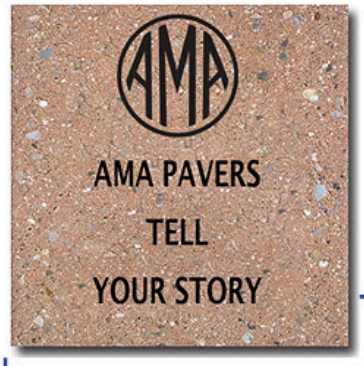
Mike Kidd '72
Ed Rogerville '76
Charlie Pascale '69

Visitors in June

86

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

July 2021

I hope everyone that reads the monthly newsletter editor's Viewpoint, can detect my love and passion for AMA and for my AMA brothers and sisters.

I usually reserve my Viewpoint column for my whimsical and sometimes quirky point of view, and yes, even on occasion, my weird sense of humor.

As you may have guessed, this is my way of blowing off a little stress and I hope that if even one of you has gotten a chuckle or a smile when reading this column. If so, I have done my job.

I usually never know what I will be writing until I begin to peck on the keyboard of my trusty iMac. But today, selecting a topic was pretty easy. We have been blessed over the years with having a number of AMA Alumni that have dedicated hundreds, if not thousands of hours in the service of the AMA Alumni Foundation, Association and our Museum. The list reads like the Who's Who of AMA Alumni:

Bob Bradford, Goodloe Saunders, Duke Fancher, Ed Click, Steve Trent, Gordon Metz, Frank Williamson, Don Studer, Doug Carter, Victor Gomez and Ben Zinkhan to name a few.

As in years past, we are still fortunate to have Alumni whose passion for AMA motivates them to do way more than anyone could expect or comprehend.

Enter B.J. d'Orsay.

B.J. or Billie Joe, as he is referred to by Victor Gomez, is our newest super alumnus. I met B.J. in the fall of 1968. He was soft spoken, sort of shy and smart. Pretty much my opposite. Yet I took a liking to him and even though we did not soar in the same orbit within the AMA solar system, I considered him a friend then as I still do today.

B.J. launched our AMA webpage over 20 years ago, and continues to maintain it. All of the software and licensing costs have been absorbed by him! B.J. took over the responsibility of writing and editing the Bayonet in 2017. The fact that he was going to take on a task that had been so masterfully handled for so many years by Bob Bradford, must have weighed heavily on him. Yet, The Bayonet is still the glue that helps keep us together and B.J. has stamped his style and signature on our beloved periodical. And yes, he underwrites the cost of the special publication software that makes it a snap to send a completed Bayonet to the Printers for immediate printing.

B.J. was elected on to the AMA Foundation Board and was elected Secretary, a job that John Arthur took over a year later. B.J. has made it his personal mission to update the museum's database. He took over Ed Clicks monumental task of maintaining our growing list of Obituaries. All of our alumnus obituaries are now available to view on the Museum Webpage. You may view them by last name or class year. That task took hundreds of hours to accomplish!

B.J. will jump into his pick-up truck and will drive to Ft Defiance from his home in Lubbock Texas from time to time. Actually, every reunion and once or twice a year would be closer to the truth. His last trek to the Valley from the Lone Star State was to attend the quarterly Foundation Board meeting on June 19th. B.J. stayed for two weeks and yes, worked on many mundane but very important tasks that help keep our museum relevant to our visitors and Alumni. He also purchased several items that he felt were needed to help enhance our museum team's workplace.

A couple days before B.J. was to return home to Texas, he discovered a trunk that belonged to Col. Paul Hoover. Nobody in the current museum staff or Foundation had knowledge that the trunk existed. When B.J. opened the trunk, he found a treasure trove of black and white negatives, color slides, tape recordings and dozens of 8mm movies! This special find motivated B.J. to stay in the valley for an additional three days!

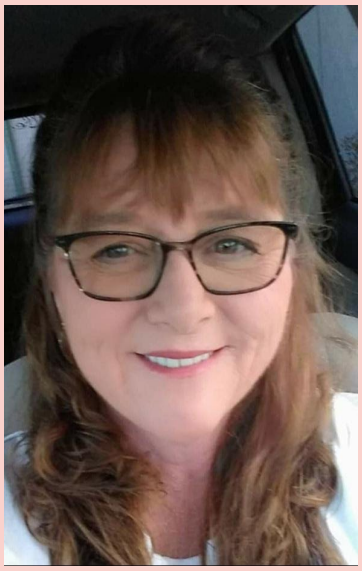
He has begun to scan all of the slides and plans to digitize all of the recordings and movies so that sometime in the future, we will be able to enjoy them at the museum or on our upcoming web-based Past Perfect

Museum portal that by the way, is soon be made a reality by B.J's insistence that we upgrade our Past Perfect software! I would be remiss if I did not add that Rich vanBreemen teamed up with B.J. to convince me that spending money on the PP software was the right thing to do… So B.J., thank you for all you do for AMA. I am privileged for the honor to call you a good friend…

Doug out.

Ad Astra Per Aspera!

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



From the Administrators Desk

July 1, 2021

Hello!

June has proved to be a very busy month here at the Museum. We have had our second speaker for the Noble Legends series. Mr. Tom Beam, whose father Robert Beam attended AMA in the 40's, shared with us information about the Virginia Tech Cadet Corp. Our next speaker will be Rick Potter, PhD on July 21, 2021. Rick is the curator at the Stonewall Brigade Museum in Verona, VA. The event starts at 6:30pm and ends 8:00pm. If you are in the area, please come join us.

BJ D'Orsay was here for about 10 days working around the museum and helping with tours. We had a wonderful visit and thank BJ for all the work he was able to get accomplished.

The Board of Directors meeting was June 19 and we had a nice attendance here at the Museum. It was nice to meet in person Gary Cripps, Steve Trent, Gordon Metz and always good to see Billy Sturgis and Brett Thompson. Brett did a few things around the museum to include replacing the American flags at the front gate.

Ainsley has been working with Rich researching the correct addresses for our former Faculty and Staff. This is being done in preparation for the Reunion2021. Chris has been busy this month with tours and helping me with various projects. We have been busy restocking the PX and getting pictures ready for the website PX.

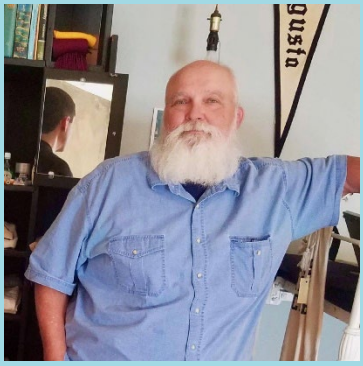
If you would like to help out here at the museum, please contact Chris about being a weekend docent. I also want to remind everyone if you have not registered for Reunion2021, please go to amaalumni.org and register.

Thank you all for your continued support and from me and the museum staff, we wish you all a Happy, Fun and Safe 4th of July!

Warmest Regards,

Amy Hensley
Office Administrator, AMA Alumni Museum

vanBreemen Expressions



July 1, 2021

STORAGE

Depending on your situation, age or experience, the concept of storage brings different things to mind. You could be thinking about hard drive space, luggage capacity, the size of your sock drawer or your tool box in the garage. Regardless of the need, it always comes back to housing our **STUFF**.

When it comes to **STUFF**, that tends to fall into two main categories: 1) the **STUFF** we need for our day to day existence (food, clothes, transportation, finances, etc.) 2) the **STUFF** we have for leisure or whimsy (golf clubs, guns, fun cars, summer homes, hobbies, etc.).

How we store this **STUFF** tells us the importance they hold. If you really care about certain things, then you probably put as much thought and effort into your storage of the **STUFF** as the **STUFF** itself. If you don't give two shakes about something, you probably store it the same way. As a former cadet, you may have some of your **STUFF** carefully stored away in a plastic tote or folders; this is because they mean something to you. Unfortunately, often times the people who inherit these things after we pass, don't feel the same way about this **STUFF** and either dispose of it or cast it aside.

What the heck does that have to do with the AMA Museum? Well, from a museum standpoint, our job is to house, control and display all the **STUFF** that was once an integral part of the Augusta Military School. This is usually thought of as physical items such as sabers, uniforms, books, trophies, etc. However, it can also mean non-physical items such as Oral Histories, biographies, obituaries, etc. Some of the things that fall in-between are photos, written correspondence, movies or audio tape. It covers a very wide spectrum; all of which are important to tell the overall story which is the AMA experience. As you can see, the museum runs on all of this **STUFF,** some of which you have tucked away in your own personal storage container – in your noggin!

If you have been keeping up with the AMA Foundation news for a while, you should be aware of something called Past Perfect. This is the database we use to manage the storage of all that **STUFF**. We just recently moved to a web-based version which will allow more access to this information by a lot more people. We are also stepping up our physical storage capability through a generous donation of metal shelving for our off-site storage locker. These two things will help us better get our **STUFF** under control and share it with the public and alum alike. The storage and ultimately the presentation of that **STUFF** is what the museum is all about. We try to keep things fresh, informative and interesting to alum and the general public alike. We have made numerous changes within the museum and more are to come. We are always looking to expand and improve on that presentation, so if you have any AMA **STUFF** you wish to donate to the museum, we will make sure it finds a good home. If you haven't visited us in a while, I would encourage you to do so. Come by and see all the **STUFF** that tell the AMA story.

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

Diego Suarez '72

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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