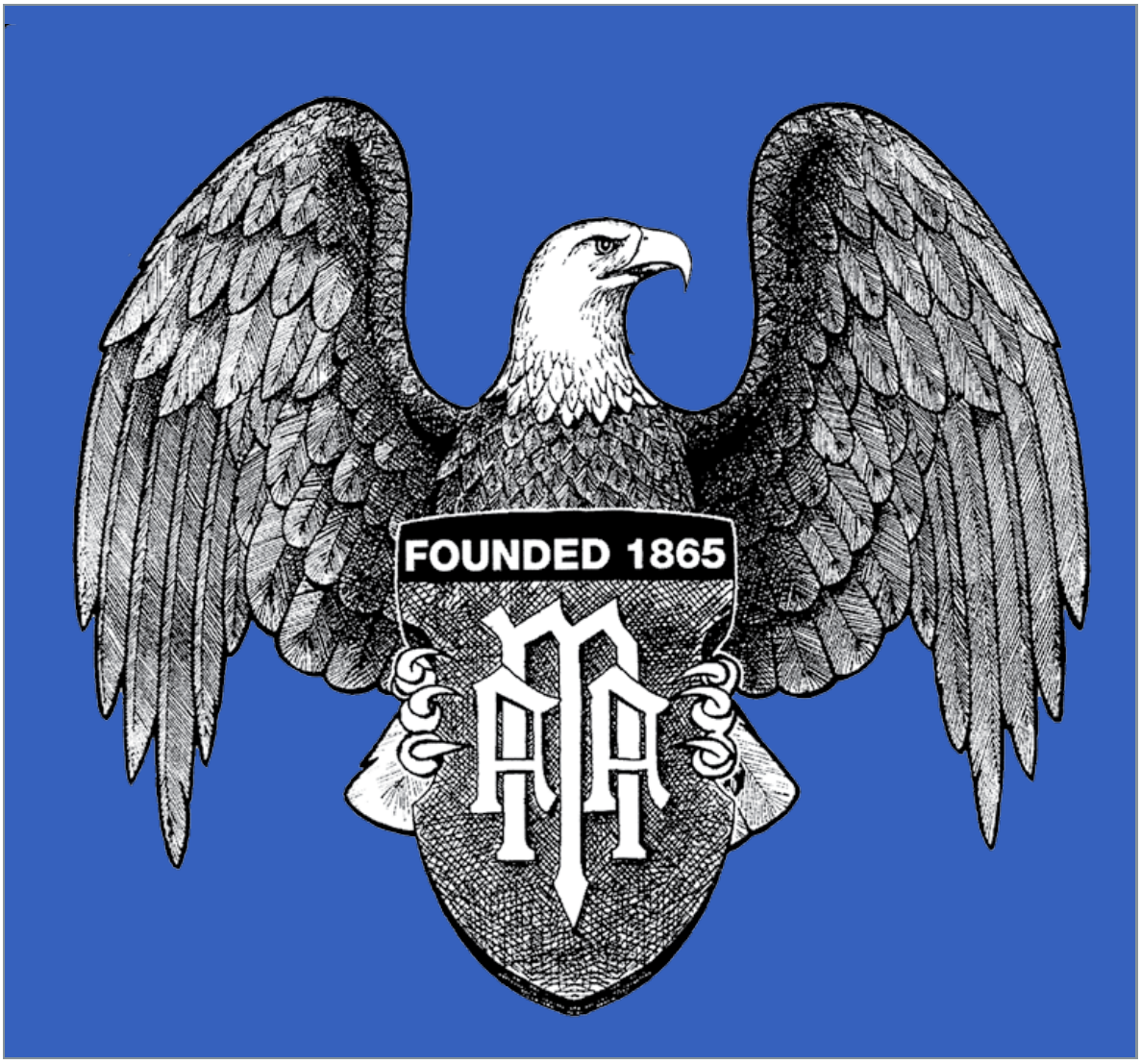
Museum of Augusta Military Academy News



Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

May - 2022

"If you're going through hell, keep going."

-Winston Churchill-

Chairman's Notes

May 1, 2022

Dear fellow Alumni and Friends,

Another month has passed since I last wrote to you and as is usually the case, Spring allows the awakening of nature and if we follow nature's rules, we humans become more active in our outdoor extra-curricular activities.

April brought our first Noble Legend speaker, Mr. Evan Knappenberger, al local historian specializing in the rise of public education in the Shenandoah Valley, post-Civil War.

May brings our first Spring Festival to the old AMA Campus. The festival will be held on Saturday May 7, 2022 commencing at 10:00am. We expect a good local turnout, particularly by families with young children. Many Board members will be in attendance to help in whatever they are needed. We cordially invite all Alumni living within a 50-mile radius of AMA to come by and visit and help out if you are able.

The Shenandoah's Best voting came to an end last month, and we expect to make an announcement in the June Newsletter regarding how the AMA Museum fared in the vote.

Our annual Alumni Foundation Board election to fill the 4 available seats for the following three years was held in April and a record number of Alumni voted!

The following four incumbents were re-elected:

Gordon Metz '68
Larry Nicholson '75

John Arthur '75
Brett Thompson '75

A short ZOOM Board meeting was held on Saturday April 30, where the following members were elected to be the officers of the 2022-23 Foundation Board:

Doug Pennock '72 - Chairman
Tom Del Valle '73 - Vice Chairman
Gary Cripps '71 - Treasurer
John Arthur '75 - Secretary

Like I said, Spring has awoken, and the AMA Museum Staff and your Alumni Foundation Board hit the ground running…

Team effort!

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

AMA Alumni Foundation News

Director Elections

The electronic election voting process for AMA Foundation Board members was completed at midnight EST on April 29, 2022.

We are pleased to announce that we had the largest election turnout ever with 173 ballots cast! That is a 28% increase in participation from the 2021 elections. Thank you to everyone that voted.

You may see the detailed voter count in the slide below.

You may review the AMA Alumni Foundation By-Laws HERE

AMA AF 2022 Election Results

- Electronic ballot was prepared and approved by Doug Pennock Board Chairman and BJ d'Orsay.
  - 890 emails sent…
  - 173 validated ballots cast (20% response)

Results

- Gordon Metz – 155 votes (90%)
- Larry Nicholson – 161 votes (93%)
- John Arthur – 152 votes (88%)
- Brett Thompson – 151 votes (87%)

All four (4) incumbents re-elected for three year terms: 30 April 2022 – April 2025

We still need volunteers to help out at the Spring festival that will be held on campus

on Saturday May 7,2022. The activities will commence at 10:00 am
Please try to attend, all indications point to a good turnout!

The Museum of Augusta Military Academy

Presents

SPRING FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 7, 2022 10:00 am until 4:00 pm

1640 LEE HWY FORT DEFIANCE VA 24437

Car Show **Military Vehicle Club** **Bouncy House**

FOOD TRUCKS by

BAYOU KITCHEN SOUTHERN COOKING

VALLEY PIKE BBQ CO.

CRAFTERS AND VENDORS **50/50 RAFFLE** **GIFT BASKET RAFFLE**

Games and Prizes for the kids! **CIRCLE M CARRIAGE RIDES**

Augusta County Sheriff K9 Exhibit **and** **MORE!**

IF YOU ARE A CRAFTER OR VENDOR AND WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A SPOT FOR SET UP PLEASE CALL 540-248-3007IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING YOUR HOT ROD OR ANTIQUE CAR FOR SHOW PLEASE CALL 540-248-3007

REUNION 2022

September 9 - 11

Honoring classes of:
1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982

Headquarter Hotel
Hotel 24 South (Stonewall Jackson)

Call 866-880-0024 or 540-885-4848 to make your reservations now and be sure to tell them that you are with the AMA group so that you get the Reunion group rate of $115.00 per night which includes covered parking.

GUN RAFFLE 2022

It has been customary over the past few years that we raffle a firearm during Reunion Weekend. This has proven to be a terrific fundraiser and very popular with our Alumni. This year's raffle choice, is a Springfield 1903A1. The rifle is in perfect working order and was recently field tested and fired by our Collections Curator, Rich vanBreemen. This rifle is similar to the ones the Roller Rifles carried at all of their performances.

1903 model Springfield bolt-action rifle, caliber .30 (30-06), with reproduction 1907 leather sling. It has a 4 groove barrel which is dated 10-36 with little to no pitting. It is considered to be a "high number" rifle and bolt which eliminate the concern some people may have about early receiver issues.

Total value of the weapon is roughly $1000 and will be considered NRA Very Good - Good condition at auction.

The rifle will have a new leather sling. Also included, are a cleaning kit and manual placed inside the storage area in the butt.

Tickets for a chance to win this Springfield 03 rifle are on sale now!

Ticket cost are $25.00
or
(5 tickets for $100)

Buy your raffle tickets HERE

As of March 31, 2022, 178 of the available 250 raffle tickets have been sold!

You may also purchase tickets by contacting the Museum at 540-248-3007

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.

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

Visitors in April

78

FEED THE BARRACKS!!

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

Museum Volunteer's

Brian Miller '67
Chris Vetick '77
Jim Mitchell '76

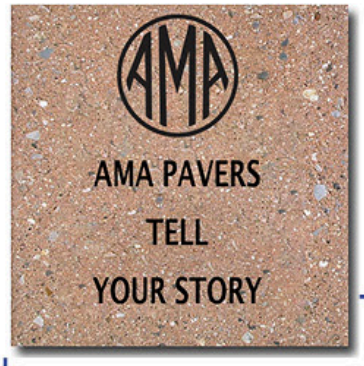
SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

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

Paver Special!!

If you buy a paver brick between March 1 and April 30, you will receive a 20% discount on the 4" X 8" and the 8" X 8" bricks.

If you order a 8" X 8" brick with the graphic, you will receive a 33% discount!



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

Purchasing a Paver Brick allows you to recognize anyone that had a positive impact on you while attending AMA

All Paver Bricks are placed in a permanent location along the sidewalk running East of the Museum

Visit the Brick virtual map HERE

Please order yours TODAY!

Brick Order Form

SHOP THE PX

THESE ITEMS and MANY MORE

ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR ONLINE STORE,

shop.AMAalumni.org

AMA

New AMA Blanket at the PX

We all remember our AMA blanket. It kept us warm and it was a little bit scratchy. This new version is even warmer and softer than a newborn baby's gluteus maximus!

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?

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint

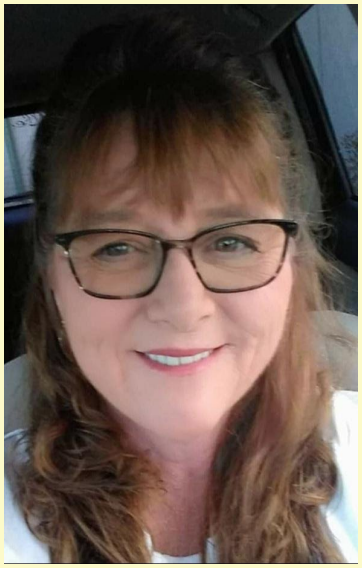
May 1, 2022

Dear Readers,

This months Viewpoint will be short.
I returned home on Friday April 28 after a 9-day stint at the hospital and rehab clinic. I finally bit the bullet and had my left hip replaced. As much as I dreaded having the surgery, I am very pleased with the outcome since I no longer have the unpleasant company of a piercing pain in that part of my anatomy.
Needless to say, putting together the newsletter was not at the top of my things to do list this month… Hopefully this month's issue has enough positive news to support my lack of editorial horsepower!
The good news is that I will be back to 100% (or so) by June and will be back with a vengeance pecking away at my computer keyboard…
Have a great May everyone!

Doug out

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

May 1, 2022

We are now in the final countdown for Spring Festival which is May 7th, less than a week away. We have a lot of interest throughout the community which is being seen through the MANY Facebook local community pages. We have spread the word through various outlets such as Facebook groups, posters distributed to local businesses and flyers submitted to the Augusta County Schools that have been sent home in the backpacks of elementary and middle school age children. We have radio ads and public service announcements that will be airing on the local radio stations. We are expecting a big turnout, and I hope our expectations are fulfilled! Not only is this a fundraising event but more important, this is about our participation in and our interaction with the local community. We are still seeking volunteers to help out during the event. If you are available for the day or even just a few hours your help is greatly appreciated and because YOU were a part of the history of AMA, you will have the opportunity to share the history and your experience as a cadet. Please come out and enjoy the day with us. We look forward to seeing you!

I would also like to add that our intern, Ainsley Bloomfield will be leaving us. Her last day is May 31. Ainsley has been a great asset to the museum by not only providing tours but assisting in special events and she has written several very interesting articles for the Bayonet during her internship. Ainsley has contributed above and beyond what has been expected of her and she will be truly missed by us all. If you would like to share your appreciation between now and May 31, you can send Ainsley an email to **intern@amaalumni.org** Thank you Ainsley for your dedication and your service. You are a true asset; we appreciate you and you will be greatly missed!

Sincerely,

Amy Hensley
Administrator
AMA Alumni Museum

vanBreemen's Expressions

May 1, 2022

By:
Rich vanBreemen
Collections Curator

Nobel Legends?

The AMA Museum staff launched its second year of hosting guest speakers to share their knowledge and experiences of history and events that are a part of our local community. This year's lead off speaker was Evan Knappenberger, a local historian specializing in the rise of public education in the valley, post-Civil War.

Mr. Knappenberger shared his insights with the community audience about the struggle to establish a public education system in the valley. Many of these efforts had ties back to Jed Hotchkiss, who was Stonewall Jackson's cartographer and planner. He also enlightened us as to how the Roller family was associated to Jed Hotchkiss – a piece of the

puzzle heretofore unknown to us. Up to now, most of this sounds familiar, at least in general. *What follows is an op-ed expressing strictly my own views based on my own studies, observations and growing knowledge of the area.*

The rise and fall of the Augusta (Male) Military Academy, along with a myriad of other military schools, is one of the most oft asked questions at the museum. “How did such a unique school come to be?” “Why did AMA and others fall apart so quickly around the same time?” In my humble opinion these two events are not independent of each other but are actually closely associated to the same political and cultural atmosphere. Stay with me.

If you are any kind of American history buff, you would probably tell me that the American Civil War ended in the McLean house parlor on April 9, 1865, when Gen. Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia to Gen. U.S. Grant. Despite popular belief, that was NOT the end of the civil war. It did, however, set precedence for the several other Confederate armies to surrender. In fact, the official end of hostilities was not until August 1866. Though the armies of the Confederacy had been defeated in battle, and its citizens forced to comply with “Yankee” ideals, the Confederate mentality was not crushed. In many ways, the rebellious southern mindset continued for nearly 100 years and some would argue that trace elements linger on today. For decades, various acts of rebellion would continue throughout the south and the delaying of public education was one of them.

Prior to the 1870s, the south did not generally adopt or accept the concept of public education. Education in general was regarded as a privilege of white male property owners and they stubbornly clung to this notion even after the war. However, the US Congress had insisted that part of the price for former Confederate states to regain admittance into the Union was to establish a system of public education. This was not a popular stipulation and Evan’s presentation covered the topic thoroughly in regards to our local area. In the course of his presentation, a light bulb went off in my head: DOES this explain why so many private military schools opened up in Virginia post-Civil War?

These schools, being privately owned and funded did not have to play by the "Yankee's" rules nor did they have to accept any northern carpetbagger teachers (a profession not thought of too highly at the time). It might explain why AMA, SMA, FHS (to name a few) opened up in a relatively small geographic area around the same time and coincidentally, were all started by Confederate veterans! We have a magnificent display of buckles and insignia from 17 military schools in Virginia and a list of 35 schools that at one time existed in the state. AMA was the first in the state and everyone reading this knows it's history from start to finish. What we are not as sure of, are the reasons for its formation and the mindset of the school in the beginning.

It is my contention that C.S. Roller saw an opportunity to expand his current limited teaching career and take advantage of the political environment of the time. "Strike while the iron is hot," goes the expression and the Professor did just that. The culture and locality were ripe for education - just not the northern kind and a private male / military type school would certainly be more palatable to the citizens of the valley in addition to defying the US Congress. This may have been a novel approach at the time, but evidence supports the notion when you consider military school (and other private school) enrollment in Virginia of the early 1960s.

As part of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, Congress mandated desegregation in public schools and in response, many Virginia parents removed their child from public schools and enrolled them in private schools. Some Virginia Education Boards went so far as to CLOSE entire school districts. AMA's enrollment numbers reflect a significant increase in enrollment at that time. These acts of defiance would have short term gains for a few schools but ultimately, public opinion would soften and "normalcy" would return. In many, if not most cases, the all-mighty dollar would sway the decision. AMA's enrollment numbers support this notion and show that once integration of private schools was also mandated, enrollment numbers began to decline quickly. This of course is not the ONLY reason things deteriorated, but the prohibitive cost of a private boarding school would surely discourage many middle-class parents when

their tax dollars were already funding a public school down the block from home.

This topic is one without a definitive answer and certainly more complex than a short newsletter article will allow. I hope that it causes the reader to pause and think further than the obvious in regards historical events and what we THINK we know about them. Occasionally, a small missing piece of the puzzle is found and takes us in a new direction. We should be willing to examine all possible scenarios with an open mind. Thus far, the Nobel Legends Guest Speaker program has fulfilled that goal and I would hope that you take advantage of this program in the future.

NEW

The 2022 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 2021 Reunion Committee

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