Museum of Augusta Military Academy News

November - 2022

Jack Frost is in the house!

Chairman's Note

November 1, 2022

Dear fellow Alumni and Friends,

Over the past year, I have alluded to the fact that there is a surge in assertive projects that the AMA Foundation Board and our fantastic Museum team have instituted. A few of them are:

Community outreach, Noble Legends speaking tour, Spring and Fall Festival, Food drive, music concerts, The AMA Legacy Preservation Corps and other new projects that have raised awareness to our local community to the fact that

AMA still has something to offer to Augusta County and the Shenandoah Valley.

The response to my August 29, 2022 letter requesting donations was a phenomenal success! So far we have raised $26,000! Again, I can't thank you enough for your generosity!

Tom Del Valle, AMA Alumni Foundation Vice Chairman, and Chairman of the Fundraising Committee, has released the grant catapult with vigor and resolve. We now have engaged three independent grant writers and one commercial grant writing firm to raise money for our museum! Grant requests are currently being prepared by all parties and we expect to have all of our grant requests submitted within a week or two after you receive this newsletter. We should be getting responses from the Grantor's by the end of December 2022 or in January 2023. At least 13 to 15 grant requests will be submitted in this years "Grant Season" (September-December).

In addition, the excitement and good will that we shared with our Virginia State and County Dignitaries at the Reunion 2022 Friday night Banquet, will hopefully bring additional funds to our organization.

In the aftermath of a very successful Reunion 2022, I am buoyed by the excitement and positive comments expressed by our membership. So, I have decided that it is now time for us to make the streamlining changes to our current organizational structure a reality.

I am including a link **HERE** which will take you to the letter that I wrote to the Foundation Board on October 19, 2022 regarding this very important organizational matter. These

changes will enable the AMA Museum Organization to better reach prospective friends and donors with a strong, clear and unified voice.

There is no doubt in many people's mind, that by merging both organizations, will enable us to more effectively reach our lofty goal of preserving our legacy Ad infinitum.

I have assigned the task of achieving the organizational merge timeline to AMA Foundation Board Secretary, John Arthur and AMA Foundation Board member and President of the AMA Alumni Association Steve Trent. My expectations are that after diligent and collaborative work between John and Steve's committee, their recommendations for a new organizational structure and name will be brought to both boards for ratification and adoption sometime in early January 2023.

Team effort.

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Alumni Foundation Board News

AMA Boards to Merge

A committee has been formed to work the process in which the AMA Alumni Association and the AMA Alumni Foundation

can be merged into one organization, as outlined on page 6 (**Organization Consolidation**) in the:

Strategic Business Plan

Chairman Pennock has appointed John Arthur, Foundation board Secretary and Steve Trent, Foundation board member and Association President, to lead a steering committee with this task.

The next scheduled AMA Alumni Foundation Board meeting will be January 7, 2023 at the Hotel 24 South in Staunton.

Virginia Museum of NATURAL HISTOR

On October 17, 2022, the Director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, Va, Dr. Joe Keiper, spent several hours at the museum with board Secretary, John Arthur, board member Brett Thompson, AMA Alumni Victor Gomez and the Museum Staff. After a tour of the AMA museum, Dr Keiper enthusiastically congratulated us for all we do to preserve the history and heritage of an important chapter of Shenandoah Valley history. All agreed to future collaboration between the museums, especially since they are about to break ground on a new campus in Waynesboro. Thank you Victor Gomez '69 for getting everyone together.

AMA Museum Reaching out to the Community

AMA Museum Collections Curator, Rich vanBreemen presents the Howe sisters - Margaret Stables of Mt. Solon Va (left) and Barbara Halvorson of Woodstock Va, their father's long lost VPI Sabre.
Read the entire story in vanBreemen Expressions on the last page of this edition of the Museum Newsletter.

AUGUSTA
Museum of Augusta Military Academy Center

AMA Legacy Scholarship Season is OPEN

The AMA Foundation will be offering two $2,000 Scholarships for 2023!

The AMA Legacy Scholarship, (restricted to AMA descendants), funded by Marc Aronson '68

The *Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship, funded by Ron Guilliams '70.

The Guilliams Scholarship will be for applicants interested/accepted to Virginia Tech only and will be available to legacy and non legacy applicants.

Applications need to be received at the AMA Museum postmarked no later than March 1st, 2023.

Legacy Scholarship Letter :

Legacy Letter

Legacy Scholarship Application:

Legacy Application Form

Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship Letter:

Guilliams Letter

Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship application:

Gulliams Application Form

Applicants should look at the scoring Rubric to see how to model their application.

Scholarship Scoring Rubric

Awardees should plan to be at the Reunion Banquet to give an acceptance speech of no more than 90 seconds.

If you know a qualified candidate, please contact Phil Bentley '83 at: 717-566-3456

***The Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship will be available to any qualified candidate, even if they are not an Alumni decedent.**

Nominations are being sought for the Class of 2023 AMA Sports Hall of Fame (SHOF). You may nominate an individual athlete, coach, team or anyone that you feel contributed in a significant way to AMA sports. Personnel / Team(s) selected will be recognized during Annual Reunion in September 2023.

Please email your nomination to John Arthur '75 email: john.arthur@cdg-1.com AND Amy Hensley, the Museum Director, email: museum@AMAalumni.org. John can be reached at 757-650-6309 for any questions.

All nominations must be received no later than FRIDAY, February 24, 2023!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Our fall festival is scheduled for Saturday, Nov 5, from 10 am to 4 pm. If you can attend and help the staff, we would greatly appreciate it. We need help in many areas! Docents, help with games, help with set up and take down, photographers, help with taking donations and selling tickets for gift card raffles.
To help, please call Amy at the museum at 540-248-3447.

Augusta Military Academy Museum

FALL FESTIVAL

1640 Lee Highway Ft. Defiance, VA

November 5, 2022

10:00 AM—4:00 PM

Crafters - Games - Food Trucks & More!

For More Information call:

540-248-3007

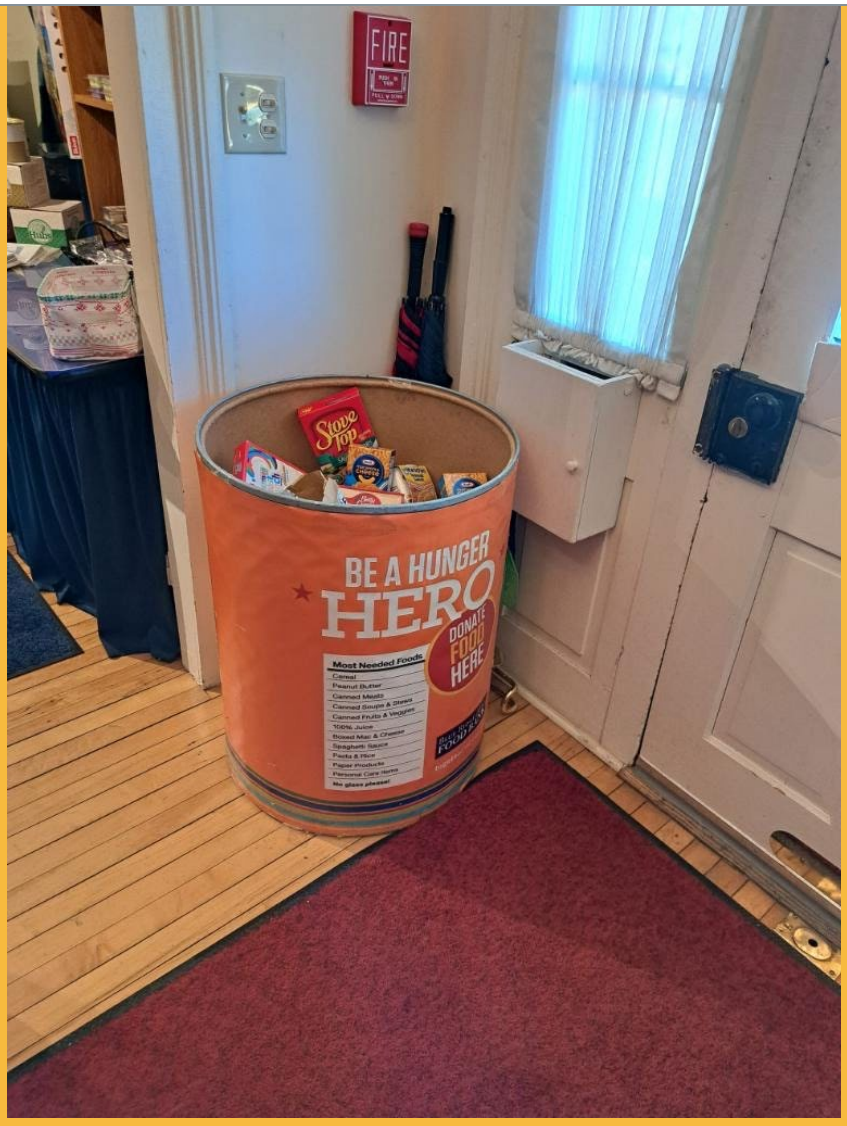
MUSEUM@AMAALUMNI.ORG

A Message from Amy

This year, we would like to decorate the Museum Christmas Tree with handmade ornaments from our Alumni, their spouses, and family members. If you would like to send us a handmade ornament, please contact the Museum at 540-248-3007, or send an email to:

museum@amaalumni.org

Please attach a small tag or place a sticker on the back of the ornament with your name and class year. The deadline is November 15, 2022.



Food Drive successful in spite of the weather

The AMA museum first food drive to benefit the Verona Food Bank, was affected by a very rainy day. In spite of the bad weather, we were able to collect three drums full of canned goods. A special thank you to Brenda and Gordon Metz for donating an entire drum full of food!

US Air Force Of Americas Band Front-Steve Trent and Back Victor Gomez

L to R Steve Trent, Lee Livick and Col. Mal Livick

Augusta Military Academy Legacy Preservation Corps

Jim Belcher Jr.
Chairman AMALPC Committee

Purpose of the Corps:

To create an organization of descendants and/or friends of Augusta Military Academy Alumni, Faculty and Staff, who are passionate about the Academy and dedicated to the preserving AMA's legacy.

If you're interested or know someone that wants to join the Legacy Preservation Corps, contact Jim Belcher Jr. at:
540-256-1676
Belcher.LegacyPreservation@AMAalumni.org

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

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

MUSEUM

DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in October

Victor Gomez '69

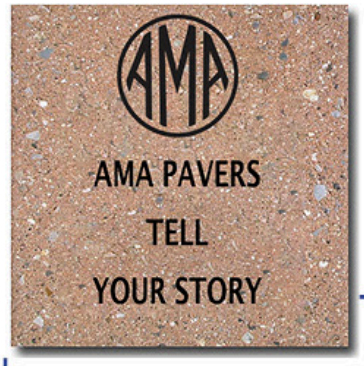
Visitors in October

90

Museum Volunteer

Do you want to be a Volunteer Docent for a weekend? Please sign up by calling Chris at the museum at:

540-428-3007



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

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

Punctuation marks and spaces count as characters!

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

You may purchase these and many more items at the PX

NOTE:

The PX online store is currently under construction. We are in the process of migrating to a new provider which has proved to be more complicated than we expected.
In the meantime, please call Chris at the museum Tuesday-Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at 540-428-3007 to place an order.
Thank you for your patience.

CHARLES S. ROLLER
III
RIFLES

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
BAND

AMA

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

AUGUSTA
MILITARY
ACADEMY

-New-

Car Windshield Sun Protector

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

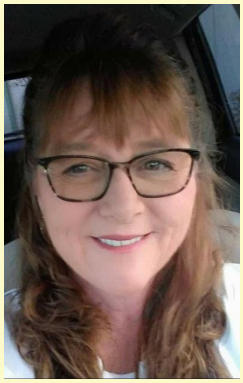
November 1, 2022

Dear Readers,

The older I get, the more I appreciate the magnificent show that Mother Nature puts on in the Shenandoah Valley at this station of the calendar.
I was impressed with the changing of the leaves the first couple of years I was at AMA, but eventually I came to grow accustomed to the transformation and eventually took it for granted.
Today, I am smack in the middle of the third station of my lifetime, so I feel that it is appropriate that I celebrate the return of the magic of Fall colors with all of you.
I live in the Caribbean. We do not have a significant change of seasons. Sort of like a 365-day summer, where the days get a tiny bit shorter in the fall and winter and the temperature will vary 15 degrees through the year. Actually, our year is divided into two seasons. Hurricane and no Hurricane. There is a time in mid-February however, that I refuse to swim in the 76-degree water of our pool, and I will wear socks when outdoors.
So pardon me as I sip on a margarita and enjoy the show from afar!!!
Happy Fall and Thanksgiving 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

November 1, 2022

Hello,

We have had a busy month at the museum. On October 1, we wrapped up our food drive for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. We collected and donated three 55-gallon barrels of canned goods, dry goods, and paper products, 234 lbs total! Thank you to all our alumni, family, friends and community members that participated in this event. The food bank expressed their appreciation for the donation and told us that there are many folks in our community that are suffering and that the shelves always need replenishment. THANK YOU for your support of this event. WHSV Channel 3 (the local tv channel) was very interested in our food drive and came out to talk with Gordon Metz about the community outreach programs the AMA Museum have held and how important we feel that participating and giving back to the community that we have been a part of for over 100 years is to the alumni and staff.

On October 12, the USAF Heritage America Band, Winds section performed for us in the gym. We had a nice turn out for the night, 30 people were on deck to listen to the beautiful music performed by such talented musicians. Thank you, Steve Trent, for coming and helping with set up, tours and dinner! Thank you, Victor Gomez, for coming out to join us and for taking pictures. We have had great feedback from the community expressing they're thanks to us for hosting this wonderful evening.

Wednesday, October 26 was a great day at the museum. We returned a piece of family history to two local women. Rich presented Margaret Stables of Mt Solon VA and Barbara Halverson of Woodstock VA with a sword that belonged to their late father James W. Howe Sr (Lt Col USA retired) that had been given to the museum by a local couple that found it in a house they had recently purchased in Mt Sidney. The couple donated it to the museum thinking that it was possibly one belonging to AMA. Mr. Howe has no affiliation with AMA but was a VPI graduate. Considering that the sword and Mr. Howe had no ties to AMA, we felt it needed to be returned to the family. Rich did extensive research and found Mr. Howes' family and let them know we wanted to return it. WHSV Channel 3 came out to the museum to cover the exchange and aired it on the local news.

Saturday, November 5 is our 2nd Annual Fall Festival. We have a super day planned. We have 13 crafters/vendors that will be here along with THE GERMAN BRATWURST TRUCK and SMILEY'S ICE CREAM, local musician David Wayne and local band Cousin Jimmy's String Band. Dixie Pony Rides will be here offering pony rides to the kids. We will have a bouncy house, games and prizes for the kids and will have a gift card raffle. The weather forecast for the day is showing great weather! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS. We will need volunteers to help with set up/tear down, tours, games and the raffle. Please call the museum to let us know if you can help.

The staff of the museum and I would like to thank everyone for your support whether it be by your donations, volunteering or your kind words expressed in phone calls or emails.

We wish you all a very wonderful Thanksgiving.

Amy Hensley
Administrative Director
The Museum of Augusta Military Academy

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vanBreemen's Expressions

November 1, 2022

A Different Kind of Homecoming

By: Rich vanBreemen
AMA Museum Collections Curator

Augusta Military Academy was in operation in its present location for over 110 years. During that time, nearly 12,000 young men were influenced by the leadership and mentorship of the AMA faculty and staff. As we submerse ourselves in the history of the school, it is easy to forget that AMA was not an isolated island, but was an active integral part of the local community as both an employer and as a customer. It is because of that historical connection with the community that the museum staff as well as the Foundation Board have been reaching out to the current community and interacting with them in positive ways.

It is in no small part that the following story was made possible because of those efforts. Although not a direct AMA event, it reflects well on the principles that the school was based on. Several months ago, a couple walked into the museum and said they found this saber (not a sword) which they believed belonged to AMA. It was discovered in the attic of the house they were remodeling in Mt. Sidney.

The inscription was difficult to read although I could clearly identify V.P.I. (Virginia Polytechnic Institute aka Virginia Tech) on one side of the blade. However, I miss identified the name, therefore my initial research led to naught. Additionally, an email sent to VPI Alumni Association went unanswered, so it appeared

that I had reached a dead end. I set the saber aside in my work room and moved on to other matters. Recently, in support of the Foundation's E-Bay store, I "rediscovered" this saber in my area and again attempted to research it.

It is inscribed with the name J. W. Howe, '41 *(which I had originally interpreted as D.W. Howo)* on one side and VPI on the other. With this new clarity, I was now able to find real information. I found an archived version of the 1941 VPI yearbook "The BUGLE" online and on page 52, there was a graduate named James Wheelock HOWE, of Mt. Sidney, VA. He completed 4 years at VPI, graduating with a degree in Dairy Husbandry. This was shaping up to be the correct original owner of this saber. Unlike the straight bladed swords of AMA, this saber has a curved blade in the style of the M1902 US Army saber. It is from the LILLEY-AMES Co. All of this fell in line with the traditions of the VPI Corps of Cadets.

Now knowing this saber had NO connection to AMA, but WAS connected to citizens within our community, I reached out to the Board for their input on how to proceed. Without hesitation and to a man, they all said getting this artifact back to the family, was the right thing to do. Therefore, I felt that I needed to research Mr. Howe a bit more (remember everyone has a story) and I was able to piece together the following:

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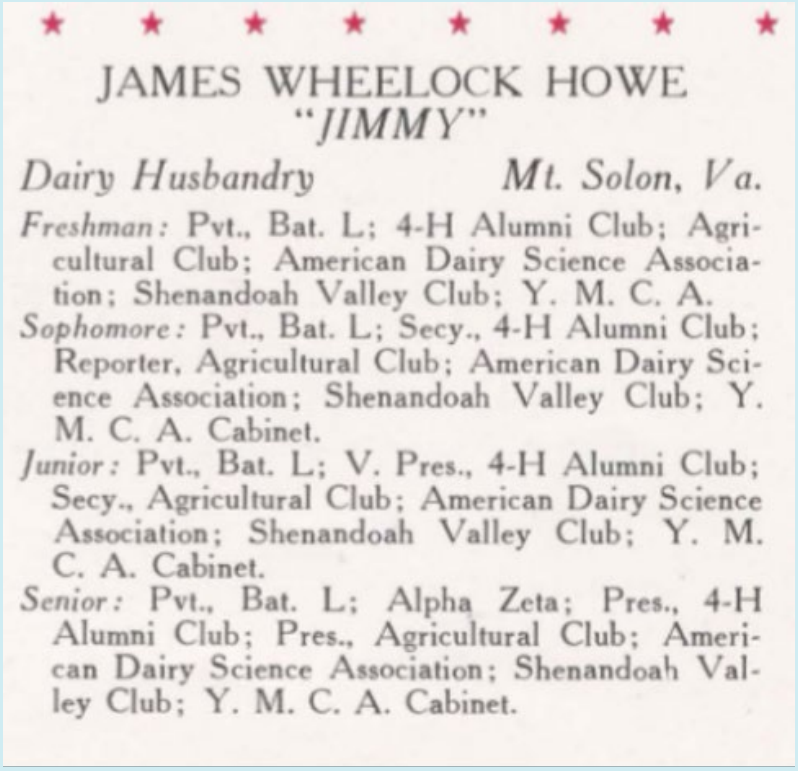
James "Jimmy" Wheelock Howe
Born: July 10, 1918 / Hampton VA
Died: Jan 23, 2007 / Harrisonburg, VA



JAMES WHEELOCK HOWE
"JIMMY"

Dairy Husbandry *Mt. Solon, Va.*

Freshman: Pvt., Bat. L; 4-H Alumni Club; Agricultural Club; American Dairy Science Association; Shenandoah Valley Club; Y. M. C. A.

Sophomore: Pvt., Bat. L; Secy., 4-H Alumni Club; Reporter, Agricultural Club; American Dairy Science Association; Shenandoah Valley Club; Y. M. C. A. Cabinet.

Junior: Pvt., Bat. L; V. Pres., 4-H Alumni Club; Secy., Agricultural Club; American Dairy Science Association; Shenandoah Valley Club; Y. M. C. A. Cabinet.

Senior: Pvt., Bat. L; Alpha Zeta; Pres., 4-H Alumni Club; Pres., Agricultural Club; American Dairy Science Association; Shenandoah Valley Club; Y. M. C. A. Cabinet.

Found online, the 1941 Virginia Polytechnic Institute Yearbook

One of the web sites I routinely check is FIND-A-GRAVE and when that turned up nothing, I had to investigate a bit deeper. I was able to find some different information which appeared to be for this gentleman using Ancestry.com. Through it, I was able to track down the following obituary:

OBITUARY: James Wheelock Howe, Sr., 88, of Mount Solon, passed away on Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg. He was born in Hampton, VA on July 10, 1918, and was a son of the late Elliot Lincoln and Louise (Crockett) Howe. Mr. Howe retired from Augusta County Schools where he worked as a teacher and assistant principal. He also was a farm manager. He was a member of Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the North River Ruritan

Club and the Virginia Retired Teachers Association. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and retired from the Army Reserves as a Lt. Col. He received his Masters Degree in Animal Husbandry from Virginia Tech. On March 24, 1946 he was united in marriage to Louise (Robinson) Howe, who preceded him in death on October 21, 1987. Surviving are two daughters, Margaret Stables of Mt. Solon, and Barbara Halvorson of Woodstock; one son, James W. Howe, Jr. of Mt. Solon; a sister, Mary Ann Ballew of Staunton. He is also survived by three grandchildren and five great grandchildren. A funeral service will be conducted at the Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church at 2:00 PM on Friday, January 26, 2007 with Rev. Patrick Pettit officiating. Burial will follow at the Mossy Creek Church Cemetery
****

Based on the information in the obituary and additional research, I discovered that his son, James W. Howe, Jr had passed away just a few years after his father, but that his 2 daughters were still alive and living in the Valley. I was able to track down and contact Mrs. Stables and spoke with her on the phone. She confirmed her father's story and that the information I had found was factual. She made arrangements to come to the museum with her sister on October 26, 2022 so that we may properly return this precious family heirloom to its rightful owners.

On that day, the two sisters arrived right on time and we sat down in the video room so I could tell them the story of the saber and present it back to them. At first, they weren't sure how to react, but then they loosened up and the stories of their dad came out. As a graduate of the VPI Corps of Cadets in June of 1941, he was most certainly destined to be in uniform during WW2 – which he was. He served in the Pacific Theater of Operations throughout the war in a Maintenance and Supply position. He ended the war as a Lt. Col. They brought along a photo of their parent's wedding and you can see they used the saber to cut the cake. While the saber (or your swords) may have been ceremonial, they obviously hold a special place in the owner's heart.

They went on describe how their father came home to the Valley to manage the family farm of Golden Guernsey cattle (they said he always made a point of that fact). He eventually began a long career in the Augusta County school system, first as a teacher at Buffalo Gap and then Assistant Principal at Ft. Defiance High School. After retirement from teaching, he served on the board of Western State Mental Hospital in Staunton.

How the saber ended up in an attic in Mt. Sidney remains a mystery. The sisters have no recollection of seeing it as children, so it is believed that their older brother was in possession of it prior to being “lost”. The two ladies spent about an hour at the museum and were so very happy to have their father’s saber and looking forward to sharing it with their children and grandchildren. More importantly, it brought “him” back for a moment as they shared their memories with the staff and a local news reporter who was there as well:

TV News Video

All of us present were in agreement that this was the best thing we could do and feel very good about being able to get this saber back to the family for safe keeping. Unfortunately, we do not have the names of the couple who originally brought the saber to our museum. But we must remember that without their thoughtfulness and efforts to bring this item “home”, this story would never have happened.

Winter Bayonet
(Final Bayonet Publication)

HERE

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

SHENANDOAH VALLEY

BEST

2022 WINNER

HARRISONBURG RADIO GROUP

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
1640 Lee Highway
P.O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437