Museum of Augusta Military Academy News

February - 2023

Chairman's Note

February 1, 2023

Dear Alumni and friends,

As I stated in my January 2023 Special Edition Newsletter, the AMA leadership structure is now entering into a new streamlined and efficient level as an organization. This crucial change will be very advantageous to managing the business affairs of the AMA Museum, and strengthen our ability to preserve the AMA legacy in a united effort!

The final step in creating the streamlined leadership structure, began on January 27, 2023. Nominations to fill the eight available AMA Alumni Foundation Board can now be sent to the Nomination Committee.

Please read the **2023 AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc. Annual Election Procedures** that was prepared by John Arthur, AMA Foundation Board Secretary in the **Foundation Board News** section of this Newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIPS

March 1, 2023 is the deadline to nominate a candidate for the various scholarships that the AMA Alumni Foundation is

offering. We are offering three scholarships this year, two are valued at $2,000 and one is valued at $1,000.

Please help us identify as many candidates as possible. Phil Bentley, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, along with Marc Aronson, Doug Pennock and our long-standing board member, Dr. Mary De Credico, who is a professor at the United States Naval Academy, will review all candidates qualifications and will select the most qualified candidates.

Just to be clear, all things being equal, in the case of the Guilliams VT scholarship, a candidate that is an AMA Alumni decedent, will always have priority over a non-descendant candidate.

If you know of somebody that would qualify for any of this years three scholarships, please have them fill out the application forms before March 1, 2023! We are looking for a good turnout of qualified candidates this year!

Team effort.

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Foundation Board News

2023 AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc. Annual Election Nomination Announcement

Last year, changes to the AMA Foundation By-Laws were approved, thus solidifying the annual AMA Alumni Foundation Board member election procedures. As a result, on-line electronic voting procedures were permanently approved, with the “cycle” for annual elections occurring in the spring (i.e. April elections).

In accordance with By-laws: Section 4.3. *Terms*: *Each Director shall be elected for a three-year term, starting with the date of the annual meeting at which they are elected, and until their successors have been duly elected and qualified, or until their death, resignation, or removal. The Board of Directors shall be divided into three classes with staggered terms, with each class as nearly equal in number as may be (i.e. four).* Accordingly, one-third of the Directors' terms of office shall expire/rotate each year. The following four board members term expires this year, and all four have expressed their desire to continue on the Board:

Frank Williamson '60 Jorge Rovirosa '70
Garry Granger '71 Tom Del Valle '73

Additionally, during the January 7, 2023 Foundation Board Meeting, the Board unanimously approved the addition of four (4) board director positions, increasing it from 13 to 17, to take effect in this 2023 election cycle. As such, there are a total of eight positions / vacancies up for consideration.

As specified in By-laws Section 4.4 *Nomination of Directors* (Revised 08 January 2022), the call for nominations shall take place no less than sixty (60) days prior to the designated annual election start date. Notice shall be provided all members via AMA website posting, electronic mail and social media outlets. Nominations are welcome and encouraged for those wishing to become involved in the governance of the AMA Alumni Foundation. In addition to the four incumbents, any AMA Alumnus or qualified members may present a nomination for a qualified candidate, or may nominate him/herself, for the position of Director. By-laws Article II Membership, Section 2.1 & 2.2, delineates board member qualifications, which can be accessed / downloaded **here**. Nominations must be received no later than thirty (30) days prior to the designated annual election start date, with no exceptions. Nomination "window" formally opens NLT **Friday, January 27, 2023** and will close on **Monday, March 27, 2023.**

Appropriately, the Election Committee is preparing an electronic ballot to enable on-line voting utilizing Google Forms. If you currently receive the AMA Email newsletter, a link will be sent to your email, where you will cast your ballot. If you DO NOT currently receive the AMA Email newsletter and wish to participate in this election, you must add your email to the monthly email distribution list by clicking **here**. Voting will open/commence no later than **Wednesday, March 29th, 2023** and voting will end at **Noon (Eastern DST) Thursday, April 27, 2023**. This election process will be publicized on the museum newsletter, via email announcement, posted on the AMA website, and posted on the social media/Facebook sites.

NOMINATION AND VOTING TIMELINES

- **Friday, January 27, 2023**: Nomination announcement made on email, website and social media. All those desiring to be nominated should contact John Arthur **john.arthur@cdg-1.com** / 757-650-6309 via email or telephone call. Please include Gordon Metz **gordonrmetz@gmail.com** on email.
- **Monday, March 27, 2023:** The nomination deadline / window formally closed.
- **Wednesday, March 29, 2023:** Election electronic voting commences (30-day window).
- **Thursday, April 27, 2023:** Electronic voting ends at NOON (EST)**.** Results provided to Chairman and Board members.
- **Saturday, April 29, 2023:** Special Zoom Board meeting with new members to conduct elections for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Monday, May 1, 2023: The election results and the newly-elected Board Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) announced in the Museum Newsletter

Update your contact information!

Please update your contact information HERE

We will never share it with anyone outside the AMA organization.

AMA Legacy Scholarship Season

March 1 is the deadline to submit

The AMA Foundation will be offering two $2,000 and one $1,000 Scholarships for 2023!

The AMA Legacy Scholarship ($2,000), (restricted to AMA descendants), funded by Marc Aronson '68

The *Guilliams Virginia Tech Scholarship ($2,000), 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.

The Louise McVey Leonard - Robert P. Leonard Memorial Scholarship ($1,000) is funded by Bill Mcvey '60 in honor of his Aunt and Uncle who paid the tuition for him to attend AMA for 6 years and 4 years at VMI.

Applications should 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

Louise McVey Leonard - Robert P. Leonard Memorial Scholarship

McVey-Leonard Letter

Louise McVey Leonard - Robert P. Leonard Memorial Scholarship

McVey-Leonard 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: 717-512-7029

***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!

REUNION 2023

September 7-9 2023

It's never too early to talk about Alumni Reunion 2023.

Reunion Committee Co-Chairs Herb Maher and Lee Ramsey along with perennial Alumni Reunion planner Steve Trent, are hard at work to make this year's reunion even more memorable than last year's. We will continue to focus on offering everyone outstanding food and lots of low stress time to give everyone the opportunity to relax and enjoy catching up with old friends.

Reunion 2023 Headquarters Hotel will again be the Hotel 24 South in Staunton (Stonewall Jackson). The special AMA Reunion 2023 rate will be $123.00 per night plus taxes. The hotel rate includes parking.

All reunion events with the exception of Saturday lunch and bus tour will be held at the hotel. To reserve a room, call the hotel directly at 540-885-4848 and make sure that you ask for the AMA Reunion rate..

Please mark the dates on your calendar.

Springfield 1903

Gun Raffle 2023

Last years raffle of a Springfield 1903 rifle was so successful that we have decided to offer you a second chance to win this classic firearm.

Ticket prices will one again be one ticket for $25 or 5 tickets for $100. Tickets will go on sale later this month. There will be a special announcement in the Museum newsletter with a link to the order form and payment options.

Good Luck!

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

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in January

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

*Brian Miller '67

***Brian Miller served the most days as a volunteer Docent at the AMA Museum in 2022**

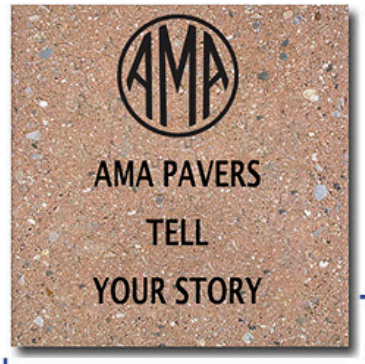
Thank you Brian!

Visitors in January

50

Museum Volunteer

***B*e 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

THE PX ONLINE STORE IS NOW OPEN!

CHARLES S. ROWLEY
III
RIFLES

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
BAND

AMA

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

AUGUSTA
MILITARY
ACADEMY

Augusta Military Academy

CROSSLAND
AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
AD ASTRA PER ASPERA
1865

AMA

AMA

AMA blanket

NEW!

17 oz. Mug

Only $12.00 plus tax and shipping

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint

February 1, 2023

Dear Readers,

Every time I visit Fort Defiance on my many trips to AMA throughout the year, I marvel at just how little the scenery on the drive between Staunton and Harrisonburg along the Lee Highway has changed over the past 50 plus years.

I suppose that bodes well for all of the farmers and the scores of Black Angus cattle that graze on that beautiful real estate smack in the middle of the Shenandoah Valley.

Perhaps the strongest memory that I envision when visiting our old campus, happens every time I drive down the ½ mile stretch of highway between AMA and The Fort, which was the old Fort Defiance Post Office and General Store back in the day.

The Fort was the only place a Cadet was allowed to wander off the AMA campus after class without permission. Cadets could buy basic toiletry items,

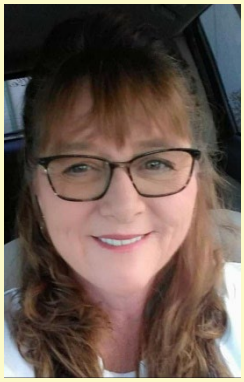
cigarettes and Senior rings there. They could also sit at the small soda fountain counter and enjoy a grilled cheese or BLT, Fountain Coke and my favorite, a Chocolate Malt. “Mutt” was the Postmaster and General Manager and CEO of The Fort. He always had a kind word for every Cadet that entered the tiny establishment and was the person who made the sandwiches, and shakes.

All cadets were required to salute every car that passed by them on Route 11 while they walked to and from The Fort. I suppose that the residents of that part of Augusta County and anyone else who happened to be driving by would get a kick out of being saluted by each and every cadet they passed.

Today when I visit Fort Defiance, it no longer upsets me to observe the woeful state of disrepair that our old Barracks and The Fort have fallen on. Yet, when I drive over that short strip of highway between AMA and what was once The Fort, I still see an image of a young man dressed in gray, smartly saluting as I drive by.
Ad Astra Per Aspera!

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

January 1, 2023

A Trophy's Way Home

The Walter Trophy

BIG MAN, LITTLE MAN - Jorge Rovirosa, `68, dressed in his Roller Rifles uniform, proudly displays the new AMA Golf Open Trophy donated by AMA friend Chuck Foley, an alumnus of Missouri Military Academy. The trophy will be awarded annually to the Open winning team.

Jorge Rovirosa, first winner of the Walter Trophy at Reunion 2005
(Image from the 2005 Summer Bayonet)

Since I have been with AMA, I have been asked many times if I have seen Walter, the golf trophy. Chris, Rich, and I have searched this museum up and down trying to locate Walter and to no avail. A couple of weeks ago I

received an email from Shenandoah Awards asking when we were going to come pick up a golf trophy that has been sitting on their shelves since June of 2018. I asked them to please send me a picture of the trophy because I had a feeling this could be the missing golf trophy, Walter. Sure enough, it was! So poor Walter has been sitting on a shelf collecting dust while a group of folks were missing him. Kind of sounds like a movie plot, doesn't it? Well finally, Walter has made it safely back to the museum. Here is something interesting about Walter. Walter was carved by a gentleman by the name of George Jay of Salt Lake City Utah, in February of 2005. Rich did the research and found that Mr. Jay passed away in 2020. I am not sure how it came about that Mr. Jay was asked to carve Walter as he is not a graduate from AMA, but he captured the sense of humor of our alumni in this carved figure. If anyone knows "the rest of the story" about Walter and how he came to be our beloved golf trophy, please share!

Special Gifts

Each morning on my way to work I listen to a preacher on the radio. One morning he told a story about the United States trip to the moon in 1969. He gave a behind the scenes look and shared that Neil Armstrong's "huge step for mankind" involved 400,000+ people. There were scientists, engineers, computer experts, mechanical crews and more, including those who stitched together the space suits. Each person who participated in this endeavor possessed a special gift and their contribution made history.
If you consider the AMA Museum and the AMA Alumni Foundation, it is comprised of many moving parts and participants. Each person involved possess their own special gift and contributes that gift to make the effort work. If we continue to pool together our unique gifts and talents, it is no doubt TO THE STARS we can go.

SWEETHEART STORY

February 14, we celebrate our sweethearts and shower them with cards, sweets, and gifts. I am curious to know how many of you met your

sweetheart while a cadet at AMA. We would love to hear your sweetheart story! You can email your story to:

museum@amaalumni.org

Have a wonderful month!

Amy Hensley, Administrative Director

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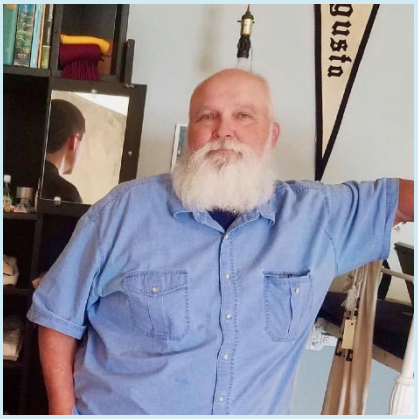
vanBreemen's Expressions



February 1, 2023

WHO'S WHO at AMA

By: Rich vanBreemen

Although Chris and Autumn conduct 98% of the tours in the museum, I am quite familiar with the duty and the things that transpire while giving a tour. Remember that the vast majority of people now coming to the museum are first time visitors, mostly with no personal connection to the school. Folks just traveling down the Rt. 11 see the sign or the

barracks and make a spur of the moment decision to pull in. Others have us scheduled on their tour of the Valley and have some basic knowledge of the place from the normal online sources.
While we don't keep super detailed records of each visit and visitor, we do gather some data along with overall impressions of their visit and their interests. The staff as a whole routinely reviews this information and we use that as a basis for the tours and exhibit upgrades and changes. The number of questions that are asked nearly universally include:

1. Why did the school close?
2. Is the barracks haunted?
3. Did anyone go to AMA who was famous / notable?

The first question is usually answered in the A/V room, making good use of our new "School Timeline". That is because, there is no one single issue or moment in time we can point to as the "AH HA" cause the school's demise. One thing we do point out, is that there was a plethora of similar schools in the state and region who ultimately met the same fate as AMA, which strongly suggests that, whatever the reason, it was probably cultural related as opposed to any one person or thing at AMA.
The second question is easy – **NO**. This question is occasionally accompanied by the statement, "I read something online about MTV doing a documentary here." While it is true MTV did shoot a video show on the grounds back in 2000, it was part of a Horror show, a total work of fiction and frankly an embarrassment to MTV, AMA and the Presbyterian Church for its production. We kill that question quickly.
The third question though is a head scratcher, and the reason for this writing. There are several rather famous alumni, whose names jump out to most of us: William Armstrong '32, Jack Manch '38, Jerry Izenberg '47, Jim Stillwagon '67, Larry Nicholson '75 and a few others I am sure I have overlooked (and will catch hell for later). But, does famous and notable equate to the same thing? I maintain they do not and therefore that list is immensely longer. Every week, I stumble across alum that have either passed on or who's records require updating and I delve into their histories as best I can. Checking the database, I see where I have updated

over 300 alums as deceased and nearly that same number who are still with us, but who's records required attention.
There are several notable faculty/staff we could all get behind, which would include the Roller family as a whole as well as the Livicks. Col. Hoover, Col. Savedge and MSGs Josephson and Studer would certainly be included in that list. Alumni are a little harder to identify since once they left AMA, their accomplishments are not often known. But what about Mike Arrington '76? How about Delbert E. Hite '39 or maybe Anthony Reed '55? There are a few mentions in past Bayonets about some of these alum, Mike being the most prominent.

· Mike Arrington '76 was an Ad Astra member, a news journalist, meteorologist and writer who was known for his works with NASA. There is a wonderful bio on him in the Winter 2000 bayonet. He died in 2016 after a long illness and the only way we knew was a short note from his brother. I can find no obituary online, in Ancestry.com or information on his burial. He may not be remembered in "the cloud" but he certainly deserves our attention.
· Anthony Reed '55 is known to us in the museum as the donor of the beautiful military schools of Virginia exhibit. Few other facts about him are published however this is from his obituary*: Born in the United Kingdom during the dark days of World War II, he immigrated to the United States and settled in Virginia with his mother, Phyllis Neese, and stepfather in 1947.In 1957, he began his dual career when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and joined the C&P Telephone Company. During his Army career**, Tony rose from Private to Colonel in Army Special Forces.** Upon his retirement, he was awarded the Legion of Merit by the Secretary of the Army for his distinguished service and his key role in the transition of Civil Affairs into Special Operations Forces. Among his many military accomplishments and honors, he was most proud of two: achieving the status of Master Parachutist with over 900 recorded parachute jumps and his graduation from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. After his retirement, he was named as Ambassador to the Chief of Army Reserve (Major General Equivalent). In this role, he was a passionate advocate for our "citizen soldiers" and worked tirelessly to*

recognize their sacrifices. During his telephone career, he again rose through the ranks from telephone Warehouseman to Director in AT&T's Federal Communications division. His served in various assignments, worked in Richmond, Washington, D.C., West Virginia and New York City, and was, at one time, Commercial Manager in Culpeper. An avid reader, historian and believer in life-long learning, he earned a BA degree from National Louis University and a Master of Science in Business Administration from Central Michigan University while continuing to work full time. He was a Senior Fellow at The International Strategic Studies Association. He was the former Commandant General of Countess Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen and was recently awarded The Legion Meritorious Service Medal with Silver Bar, for exemplary service. In addition, he was awarded the Knight Grand Cross of the Imperial Order of the Star of Ethiopia and as well as Knight of the Military and Chivalric Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, under the protection of the Royal House of France, serving as Ambassador Emeritus.

· Delbert E. Hite ’39 has even less written about him in the Bayonets or online. However, his obituary strikes a chord with me as the quintessential “salt of the earth” kind of man: *He was born on May 13, 1918, in Montebello, a son of the late Ollie and Elah Fauber Hite. Speedy retired from the military after over 30 years, serving during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Following retirement, he was a co-founder of the Virginia Defense Force in Staunton and Lexington. He was a member and past-president of the Staunton Lions Club. It was Speedy's hope that he would be remembered as a good man.*

So, the question remains, “Did anyone go to AMA who was famous / notable?” The short answer is yes; MANY NOTABLE people can claim an attachment to AMA and some of them are also famous. However, I think a better question is, “Are they notable because of AMA or is AMA notable because of them?” It is for these reasons that we are desperately trying to flesh out our database with the eventual goal of making it available online to the public. Food for thought.

Rich vanBreemen
AMA Museum Collections Curator

BEFORE

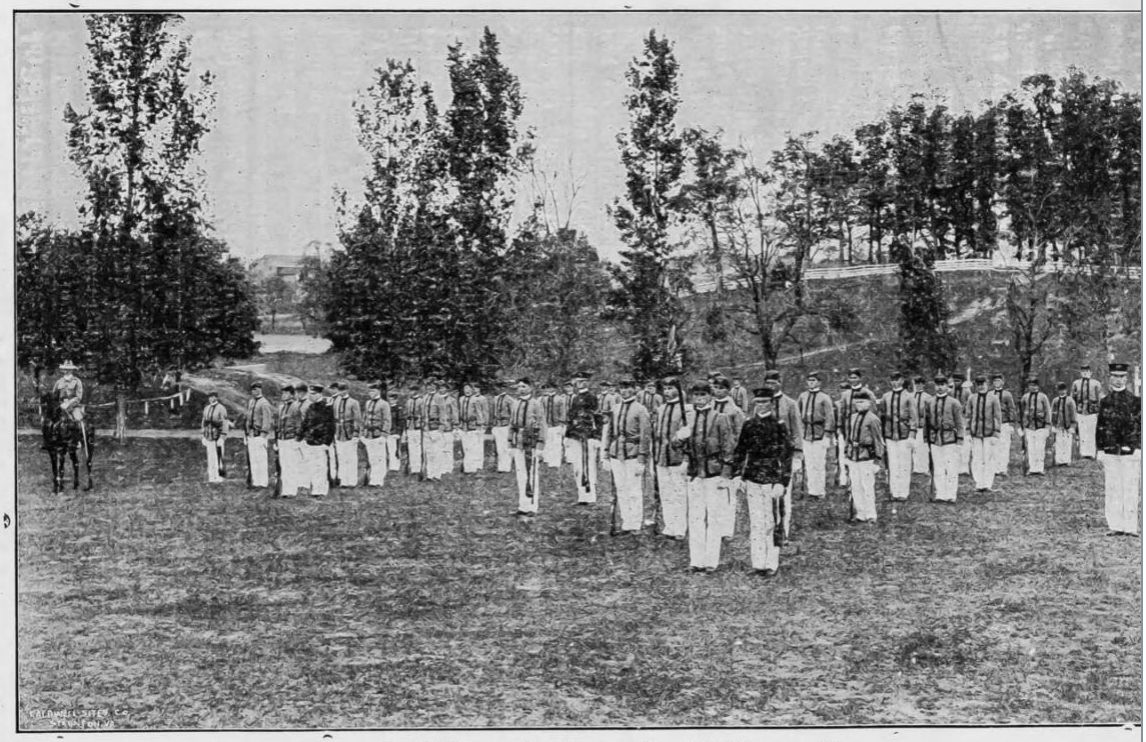
Apple Macintosh PC (1984)
The first space shuttle launch(1981)
Video games (1972)
Man landed on the moon (1969)
Skateboards (1966)
Velcro (1957)
Non-stick pans (1954)
Credit cards (1950)
Transistors (1948)
Power windows (1940)
Nylon (1935)
Parking meters (1932)
Jet engines (1930)
Television (1923)
Frozen food (1922)
Lie detectors (1921)
Pop up toasters (1919)
Tanks (1915)
Traffic lights (1914)
Crossword puzzles (1913)
Stainless steel (1912)
Tea bags (1908)
Cartoons (1907)
The airplane (1903)
Radio (1895)
The zipper (1893)
The gasoline engine (1885)
The incandescent light (1879)

The photograph (1877)
The telephone (1876)

THERE WAS AMA

Keep the AMA Spirit alive!

(Borrowed from the 2005 Summer Bayonet)



Augusta Military Academy, Fort Defiance, Va.

Read the first Bayonet (1906)
HERE

The Bayonet Gallery

HERE

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

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