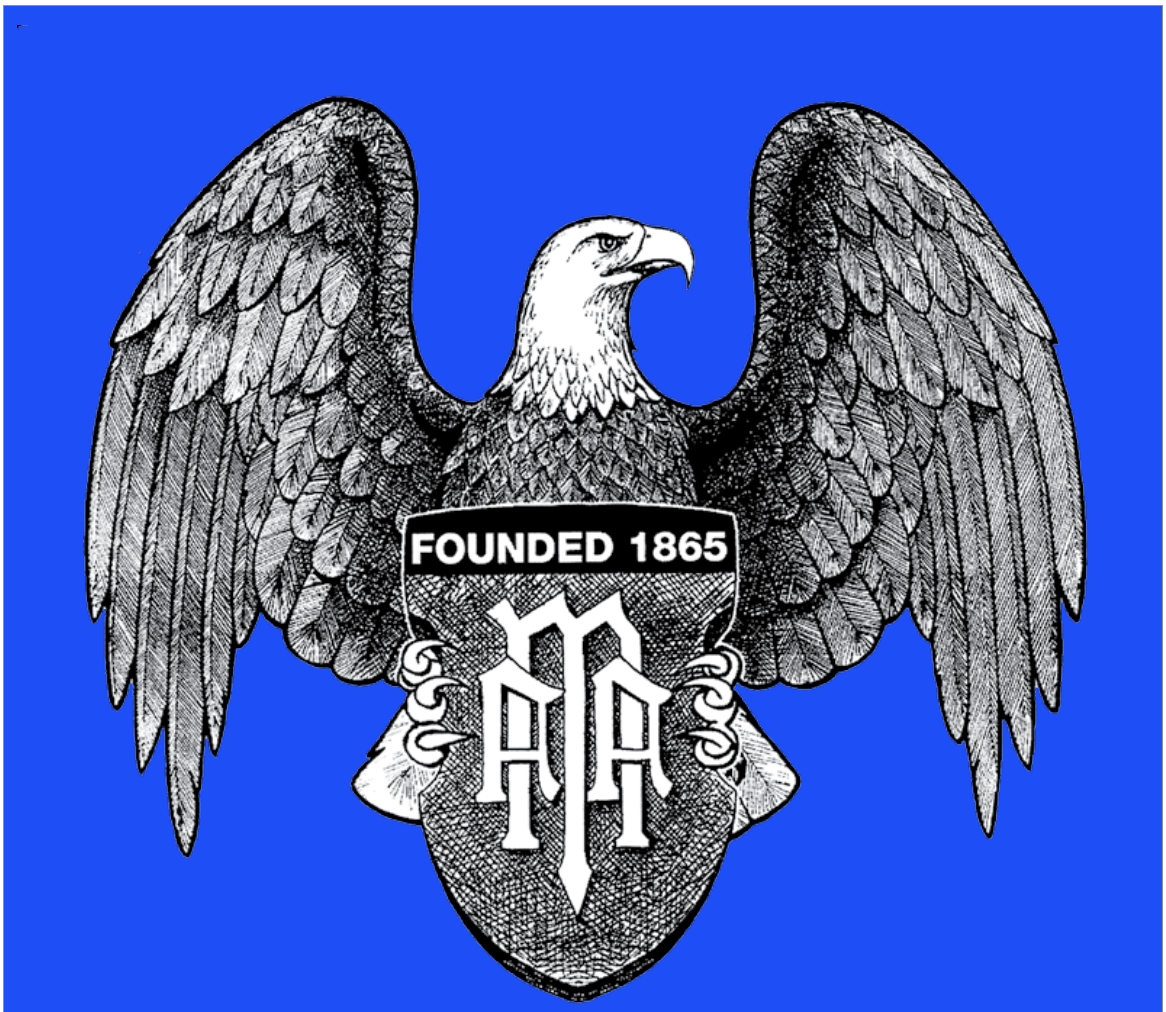


"Ad Astra Per Aspera"

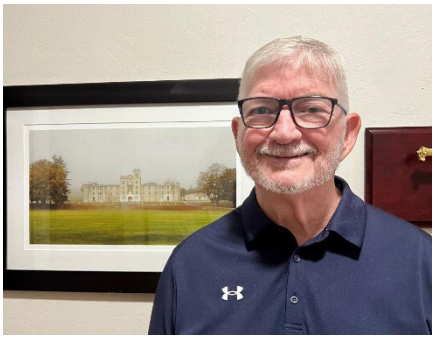
AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

May - 2026

Scan of the original 1915 architect's pre-construction rendering of the Memorial Gymnasium

THE AMA MEMORIAL



Chairman's Message

Douglas W. Pennock '72

May 1, 2026

Dear fellow alumni and friends,

I would like to begin this month's message with some positive news.

AMA alumnus Scott Travers has donated a piece of commercial real estate to the AMA Alumni Foundation. The property was recently appraised at $150,000 and has been on the market for several years. Our intention is to list the property for sale promptly, with the proceeds directed to the AMA Memorial long-term maintenance fund.

Mr. Travers indicated that the property was donated in honor and memory of two specific deceased cadets — **Ben Zinkham** and **Doug Carter** — and also to recognize **Mal Livick** and **Linda Livick**.

If any of you would like to make a donation to the AMA Memorial building and long-term maintenance fund, please feel free to reach out to me at:

chairman.amafoundation@amaalumni.org

After six months of hard work on the long-term lease with the Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, the language of the final contract document was finalized on April 30.

To be clear and transparent with everyone, our attorney — working closely under our direction — has been diligently drafting a strong, fair, and comprehensive agreement that will protect both the Foundation and the Church for generations to come. We want to get this exactly right — imagine a “legal crystal ball” that looks out over the next 100 years and beyond.

Our attorney will need just one more day to reformat the document and update the Table of Contents. The Church should have the completed contract in hand no later than Monday, May 5, 2026. The leadership of the Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church has been very supportive and cooperative throughout this entire process.

On a personal note:
I have lived and worked in Puerto Rico for 62 of my 72 years. The most commonly used word down here is “Mañana” (tomorrow). I’ve learned to live with that relaxed island pace. But I’ve discovered that there is one place on the mainland that may even give Puerto Rico a run for its money in the “mañana” mantra — the great Commonwealth of Virginia.

Tomorrow, y’all!

Cordially,
Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman

2026 Election Results

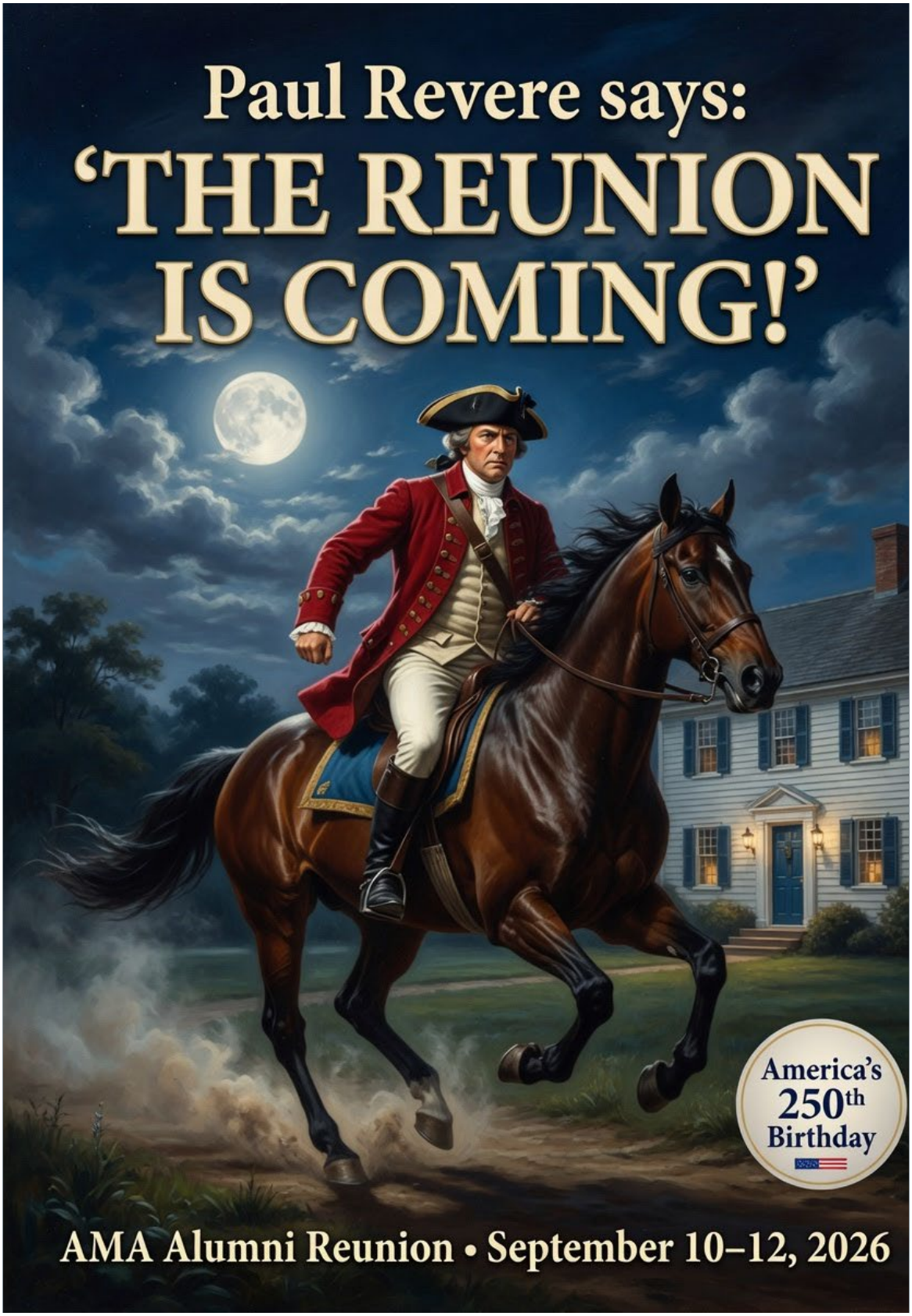
The election results are in! All five incumbents have been re-elected to serve another three-year term on the AMA Alumni Foundation Board of Directors. Congratulations to:

Jorge Rovirosa ’70
Herb Maher ’72–73
Tom Del Valle ’73
Garry Granger ’71
Victor Gomez ’69

The AMA Alumni Foundation Board of Directors will meet via teleconference on Saturday, May 2, 2026, to elect the 2026–2027 Officers.

The results of the election will be announced in the June newsletter.

America's 250th Birthday
1776 – 2026


Paul Revere says:
'THE REUNION IS COMING!'
America's 250th Birthday
AMA Alumni Reunion • September 10–12, 2026

An Announcement from Your Reunion Committee

New for the **Hospitality Room** on Thursday evening, September 10th, we have added a carving station featuring **roast beef** and **ham** carved by the hotel chef. Hot hors d'oeuvres and snacks will also be available along with soft drinks, water, and adult beverages.

Come join us at the 2026 Reunion, where Fun is a tradition!

QUICK LINKS

[Register for Reunion 2026]

[Buy Rifle Raffle Tickets]

[Reunion Sponsorship]

[AMA Memorial Sponsorship Donor Agreement]

[Museum General Fund Donation]

AMA Alumni Reunion

September 10 - 12, 2026

Honoring the Classes of:
'46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, and '81

Headquarters Hotel Hotel 24 South (Stonewall Jackson)

Call 540-885-4848 to make your reservation. Tell them that you are with the AMA group to get your $127 per night rate

Register HERE

Become a Reunion Sponsor

For the past several years, our Alumni Weekend has been fully funded by the generosity of our own. That says a great deal about the kind of men that AMA produced.

If you would like to help sponsor one of this year's events or venues, we would be grateful. Every contribution, regardless of size, plays a role in making the weekend something we can all be proud of.

Sponsors will be recognized throughout the reunion.

Please click HERE to sponsor an event

Below is a list of this year's sponsorship opportunities.

You may sponsor a portion of the venue or the entire venue. Your choice.

Registration	$1,500.00
Hospitality Suite	$1,500.00
Band Company Breakfast	$1,000.00
Friday Banquet	$6,400.00
Saturday Breakfast	$2,300.00
Saturday Lunch	$4,200.00
Saturday Dinner	$6,400.00
Flowers	$500.00
Reunion General Fund	Any Amount

Reunion 2026 Sponsors

Category	Cost	Sponsors	Pledge	Status	Paid	Dat
Registration	$ 1,500	Doug Pennock '72	$ 1,500	Paid	$ 1,500.00	4/25/
Hospitality	$ 1,500	Jeff Wenzel '70	$ 1,500	Paid	$ 1,500.00	3/10/
Band Breakfast	$ 1,000	Doug Driscoll '72	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	2/19/
		Joe Gallehugh '70	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	4/28/
Friday Dinner	$ 6,400	Class of '67	$ 3,200	Paid	$ 3,200.00	4/14/
Saturday Breakfast	$ 2,300					
Saturday Lunch	$ 4,200		$ -			
Saturday Dinner	$ 6,400	Marc Aronson '69	$ 3,200			
Flowers	$ 500					
Reunion General Fund	$ 2,000	Doug Driscoll '72	$ 500	Paid	$ 500.00	2/19/
		Herb Maher '72	$ 500			
TOTAL	$ 23,800		$ 11,400		$ 7,700.00	

Springfield M1A
50th Anniversary Rifle

Watch the Video

This year, we are offering a very special rifle for our annual Rifle Raffle.

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Springfield M1A version of the iconic semi-auto M14, Smithfield Armory produced a limited production of 1,974 units. This beautiful collector's rifle includes a handcrafted wooden display case, laser-engraved operating rod, a certificate of authenticity, and additional accessories.

Tickets will go on sale immediately. Ticket prices are $25 per single or $100 for a five-pack. You may purchase your tickets online HERE, or you can send a check to the Museum at: PO Box 100, Ft. Defiance, VA 24437-0100

22" BARREL

The G.I. 22-inch carbon steel barrel on the M1A 50th Anniversary rifle wrings all available performance out of the 7.62 round.

MATCH-GRADE APERTURE REAR SIGHT

The match grade non-hooded rear sight features a small .052" aperture, ½ M.O.A. windage adjustments, and 1 M.O.A. elevation increments.

ARMY TECHNICAL MANUAL

Like M1A rifles from 50 years ago, a reproduction M14 Army TM-9-1005-223-12 technical manual is included.

TWO-STAGE TUNED TRIGGER

MIA CLEANING KIT

OD GREEN SLING

AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

2026 Annual Election Results

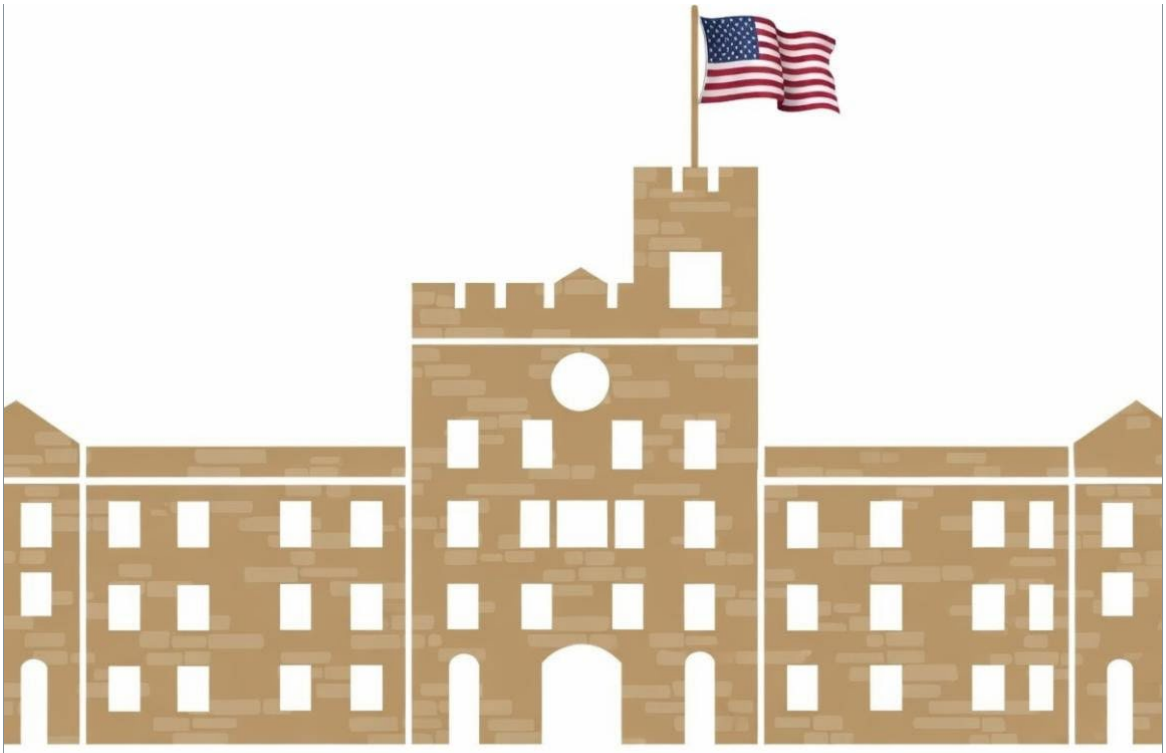
The following Directors were re-elected to a three-year term:

Jorge Rovirosa '71
Herb Maher '72
Tom Del Valle '73
Garry Granger '71
Victor Gomez '69

The AMA Alumni Foundation Board of Directors will meet via teleconference on Saturday, May 2, 2026, to elect the 2026–2027 Officers.

The results of the election will be announced in the June newsletter.

Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation Scholarship



AMA ALUMNI FOUNDATION, Inc.

A M A L E G A C Y
S C H O L A R S H I P S

Midnight EST April 30, 2026, was the deadline for this year's AMA Legacy Scholarships.

We have 4 applications.

Once again, the AMA Alumni Foundation is delighted to offer financial assistance for higher education to the offspring of our alumni.

For the first time, this year we have two (2) highly qualified / non-alumnus Scholarship Committee members who will make the final decision (without debate) regarding the winners of this year's Legacy Scholarships.

Announcements will be made in the July AMA Newsletter; a formal presentation will be given at R2026 in September.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to Marc Aronson '68, Phil Bentley '83, Soumi Eachempati, and Brenda Martinez (non-alumnus judges) for their time and energy with the Scholarship Committee

Garry Granger'71
AMA Alumni Foundation
Scholarship Committee

Museum Visitors

On Sunday, April 19, Nicky Syropoulos' daughter, Lindsey, visited the museum with her husband, Russ, and their daughters, Ilya, 6, and Lucy, 9. They were returning to Baltimore from Roanoke, where Lindsey had run a half-marathon the day before. Ilya and Lucy got to see where

their grandfather spent his childhood and, in the yearbooks, how he went from an 8-year-old New Cadet to a graduate 10 years later, as the **"C" Company Commander**…

1959

1968

Founders Day 2021

…Ponder what it would've been like to be in charge of all those people and get them to do what you say, and they learned that their grandfather looked so much like the academy's first principle that he even portrayed him for his fellow alumni.

MUSEUM

DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

Visitors in April

A monthly pledge from everyone who reads this newsletter supports the Museum's operating costs.

55

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

Museum Volunteers

Elizabeth Andrews
Brian Miller '67
Jim Alexander of Fort Defiance

Be a Volunteer Docent for a weekend. You may be surprised how much fun you will have!

To order items from the PX, call the Museum at 540-248-2007

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
AD ASTRA PER ASPERA
1865

CHARLES S. ROLLER
III
RIFLES

AMA

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
BAND

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

CROSSLAND
AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
AD ASTRA PER ASPERA
1865

PAVER BRICK

Celebrate a life, a legacy, or a special memory by purchasing a personalized Paver Brick at the AMA Museum.

Every brick is proudly placed along the sidewalk running east of the Museum. When the time comes, all paver bricks will be relocated and permanently displayed at the AMA Memorial — ensuring your tribute endures for generations.

Visit the Brick virtual map HERE

Brick Order Form

Frank Spencer Jr '49
Friend, Volunteer &
AMA Chaplain
1929-2023 Godspeed

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint

May 1, 2026

Dear readers,

Normally, Chris or Rich is the one who uncovers the fascinating bits of AMA history — sometimes on purpose, sometimes completely by accident — while digging through the thousands of documents and artifacts at the Museum or in our Verona storage locker. Other times, history simply walks through the front door in the form of an alumnus, a descendant, or even an old girlfriend. The point is, you never know where the next great AMA story will come from.

Today, it’s my turn to share a discovery.

Several months ago, while working on the AMA Memorial project, I asked Rich whether we had any architectural drawings or details for the campus buildings. Not surprisingly, he said he had found some of the original Big Barracks drawings and had scanned them. I asked him to send me a thumb drive loaded with the drawings so I could take a look at them.

When I finally got around to using the thumb drive Rich had sent me months earlier, I ran into a small problem: the drive's USB plug wouldn’t fit my Apple Mac Mini Pro

computer, which only has USB-C ports. (Did you know there are at least eight different types of USB plugs — and even A and B versions of some of them?) You'd think the tech world could settle on one standard, but there's apparently too much money to be made by "upgrading" every few years.

So, like any rational person, I headed to Best Buy to purchase a $20 adapter. Unfortunately, every time I walk into that store, my inner kid takes over. I went in for one small adapter… and walked out with a very nice pair of Apple AirPods Max headphones. I won't tell you what they cost, but I will say the sales tax alone was more than double the cost of the adapter.

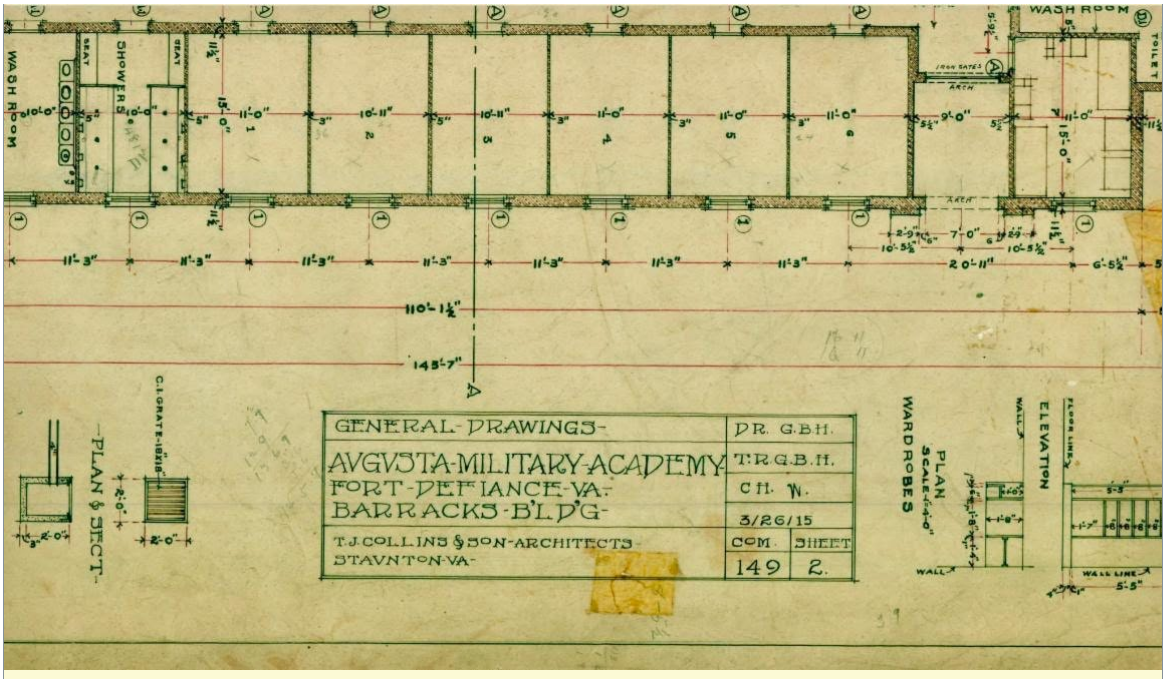
Thanks a lot, Rich and Chris!

Once I finally got the files open, I was pleasantly surprised. I was able to open dozens of scans of the original architectural drawings of The Big Barracks, along with an artistic rendering of the soon-to-be-built Memorial Gymnasium, which is shown at the beginning of the Newsletter. The image shown below is a close-up of the title block from page two of the Big Barracks construction drawings, dated March 26, 1915. The rest speak for themselves.

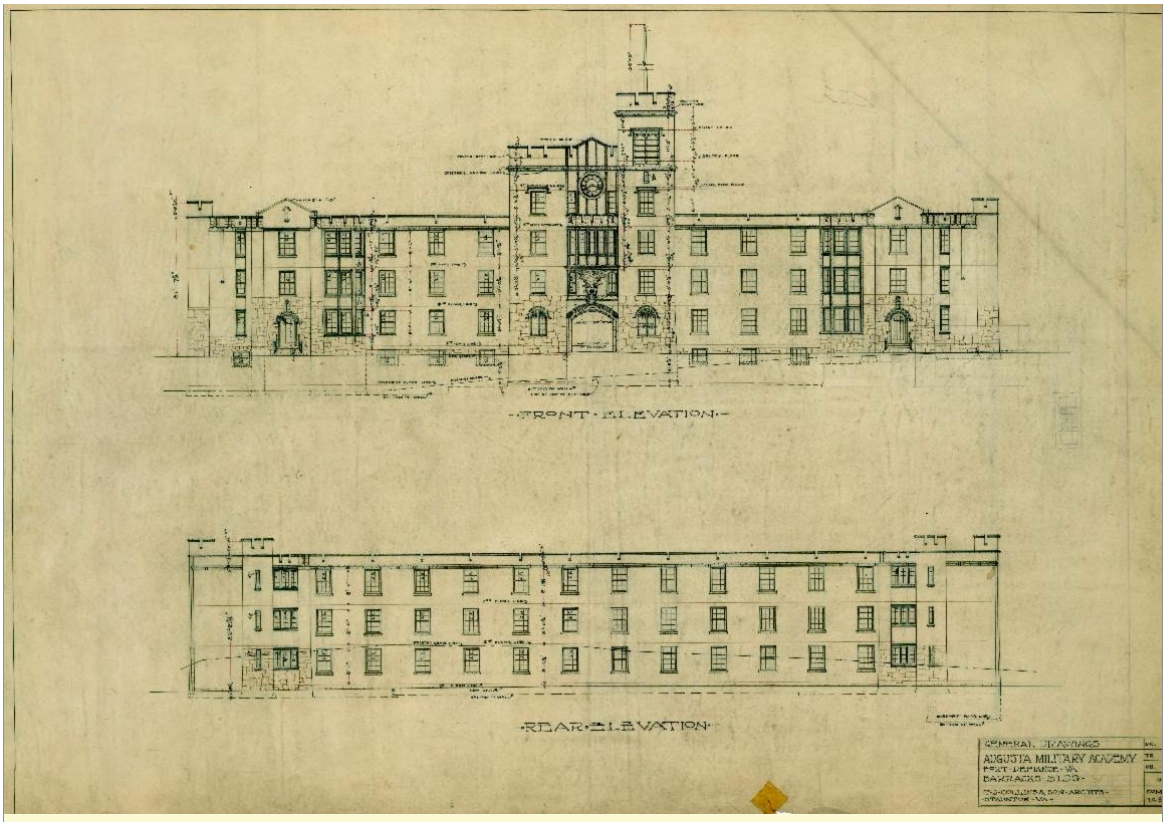
The last three images, however, really caught me off guard. The original plans included a detailed drawing of an elevator shaft and car — plus a clock facing towards both the Bowl and the courtyard! My guess is that as construction progressed, the Roller brothers decided a little "value engineering" was in order.

I hope you enjoy these drawings as much as I have.

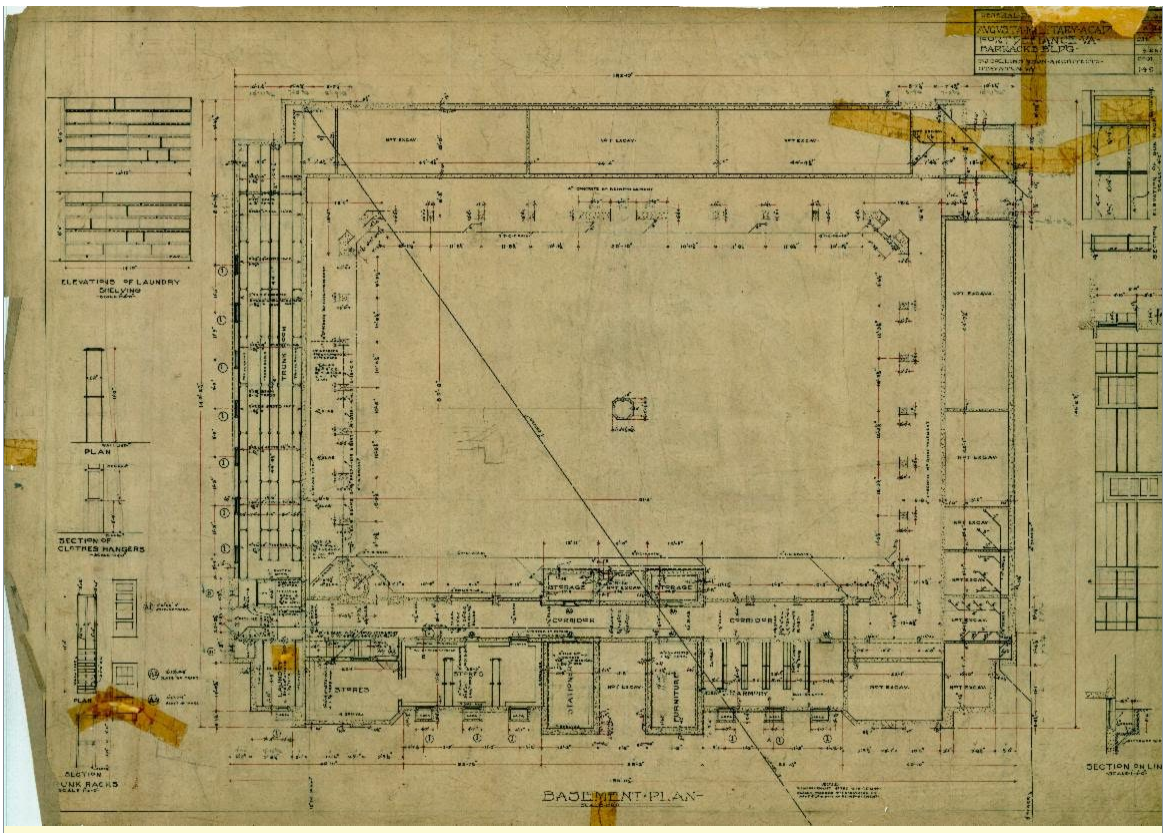
Doug out



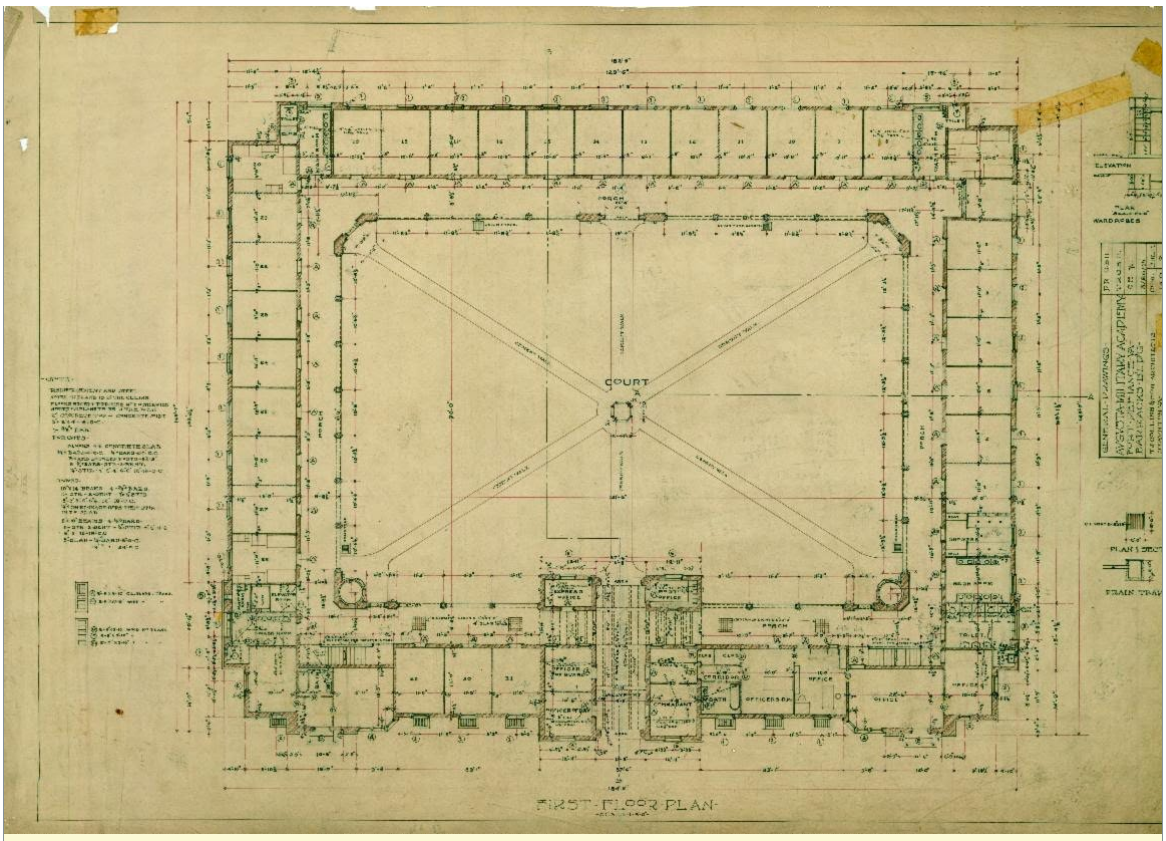
GENERAL DRAWINGS
AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
FORT DEFIANCE - VA.
BARRACKS BLD'G
T.J. Collins & Son of Staunton, VA.
March 26, 1915



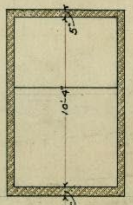
Front and rear elevation of Big Barracks



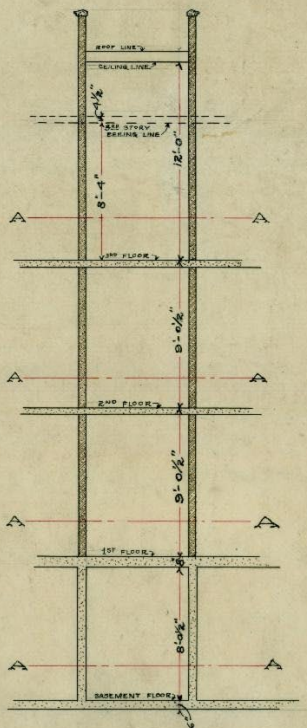
Basement plan



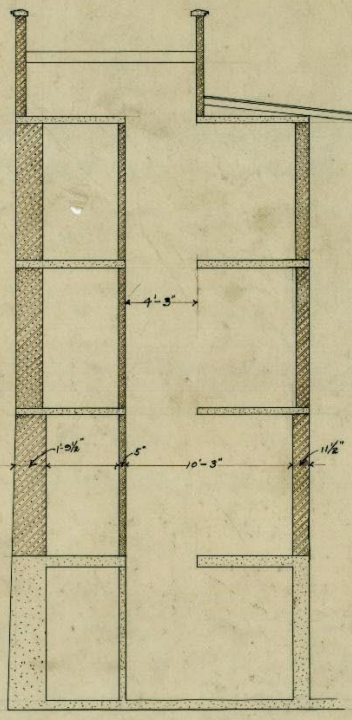
First floor plan

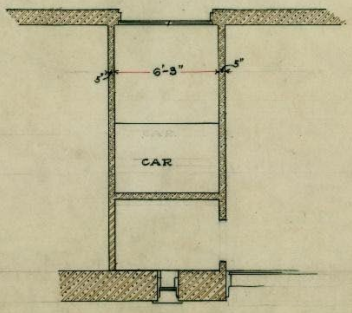


-PLAN-OF-PENT-HOUSE-



-SECTION-





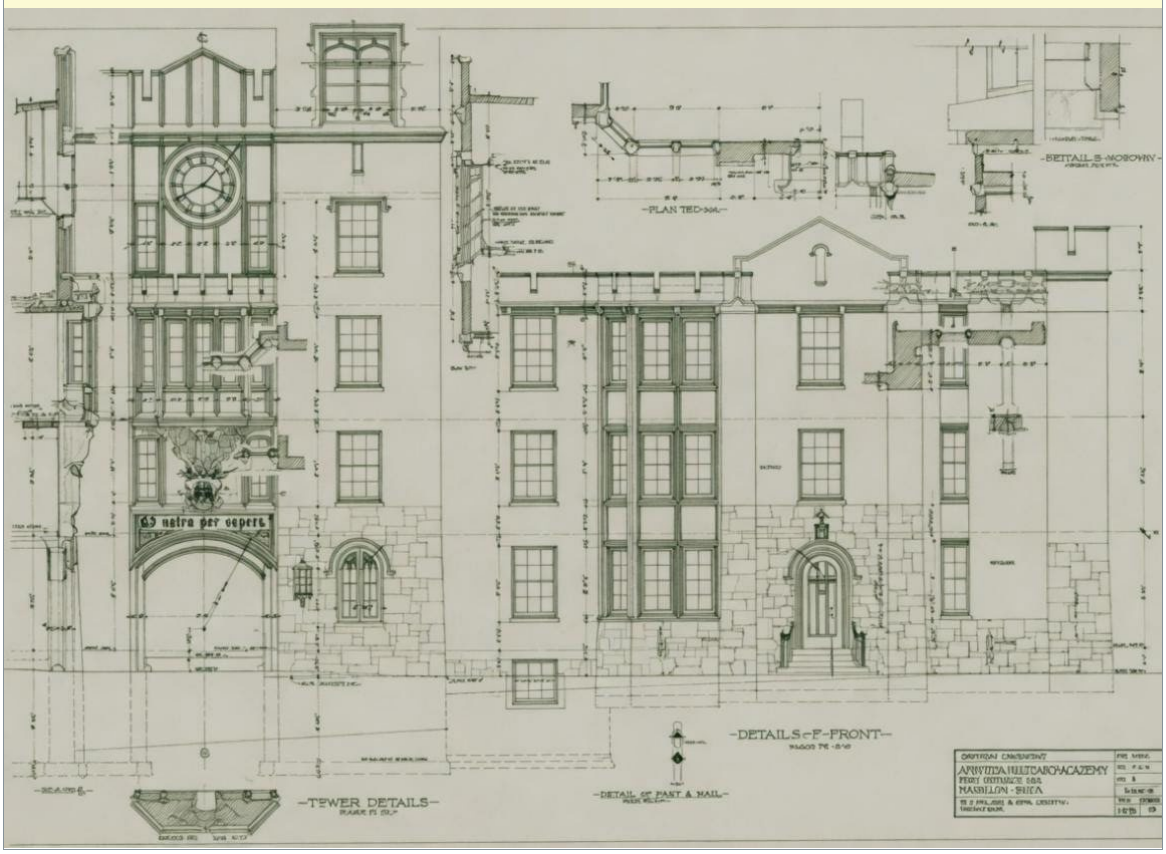
-SEC-"A-A"

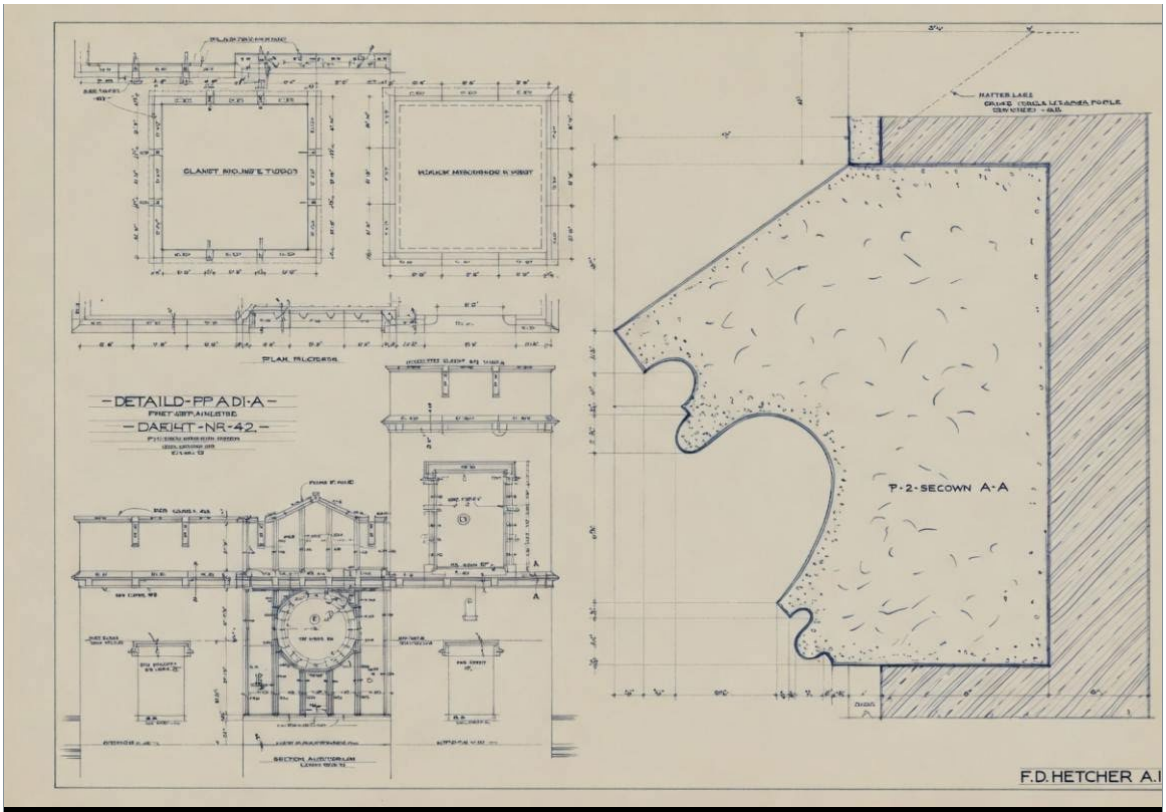
-DETAILS-FOR-ELEVATOR-
-FOR-A-M-A-BARRACKS-
-OCT-15th 1915-
-SCALE-1"=4'-0"-

-T-J-COLLINS-&-SON-
-ARCHITECTS-
STAUNTON-VA-

Above - Elevator details

Below - Clock Details





The Museum Newsletter is written and prepared by Doug Pennock.
Trudy Pennock and Marc Aronson '68, editors.

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 a paid staff. Former cadets volunteer their time and talent most every month. 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