

# Augusta Military Academy

## Oral History

by Betsy Cover Crawford  
(daughter of John Tobias Cover, '32, deceased)  
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### My Father's Pride in AMA

Sadly, my father, **John Tobias Cover**, passed away in 1987; however, from my earliest memories I felt that AMA was a very special place because of his pride of the school and the fact that he had graduated from there.

My parents had lived in Staunton for years, my father having been born in Augusta Springs, Virginia, and then moving to Staunton at an early age. Our family was very close to the Roller family. My grandmother and **Mrs. Roller** were good friends.

I have my father's Ad Astra pin safely tucked away in my jewelry box, as it meant the world to him – and to me! He is listed as having become a member of Ad Astra in 1933.

He played on the school football team and I can remember him telling us how he ran a touchdown – but, unfortunately, he ran the ball the **WRONG** way!!!

He thought that was pretty funny later in life, although obviously **NOT FUNNY** when it happened!

He was the only son in a family of five and all his sisters, Mary, Helen, Jessie Mae and Maudie Cover were “belles of the ball” at AMA. I dated at AMA also and had a lot of good friends in the classes of 1959-1961.

Many, many wonderful memories surface when I think of Fort Defiance, such as Fall when the leaves were turning and the air was crisp and driving around the bowl ...

**Doc Savedge**, (who drove all the girls nuts! :) ... but you wanted to stay on his good side ...

The Gray Ghost ...

The day former **President Eisenhower** came and drove around the bowl in an open car .. and I reached out and shook his hand ...

The song “See You in September”, which we were sure had been written just for us ...

Dances and uniforms and a special boyfriend and dress parades and giggling with girlfriends and so many of the things that made my youth magical!

I wish I had found this site while my father was still alive, as I know he would have taken great pleasure and pride in forwarding his school memories to you!

Best wishes to all ...

Betsy Cover Crawford  
Smithfield, North Carolina