

Captain Peter Morrissey

We had the privilege of inducting a very inspiring man who came to AMA as a coach and teacher in his later life and who had made a national reputation before that happened.

In 2006, *The Bayonet* received a letter from the great-grandson of Peter J. Morrissey asking for information about his time on the staff at AMA. Ed Click remembered that he had taken Captain Morrissey's physical geography class and both Ed and Ernest Click remembered Morrissey as their swim coach.



Joanathan Morrissey accepts for his great-grandfather

It is very obvious from his life story that Captain Morrissey had a passion for coaching children and young adults.

He was a veteran of World War One who rose to the rank of captain, was an Irish immigrant who came to this country in his teens and who came to AMA during the Second World War, passing away in 1947.

He had been the swim coach at both Lehigh and Washington and Lee Universities and in his career had coached 14 national champion swimmers.

He was head trainer at Lehigh for four years, was President of the National Intercollegiate Swimming Association

and was the Eastern District Coach for the US Olympic swim and wrestling teams in 1920, 1924 and 1928.

Captain Morrissey founded the National Collegiate Life Saving Society and was a coach and referee at the Penn Relays for nearly 25 years. He introduced water polo as a collegiate event for the first time and even invented the first inflatable swimming cap which could help keep a swimmer afloat for a long period of time.

He liked to be called "Pete" or "Pop." Accepting Pop Morrissey's induction into the AMA Sports Hall of Fame was his great-grandson – from Easton, Pennsylvania – Jonathan Morrissey.

