

CMAAA Board Meeting — 22 October



Volume 32, Number 3

Fall 2022

From the President



We are writing this letter to tell you about the CMAAA Legacy Endowment. We Bellhops all know that as time marches on our ranks will grow thinner. Because we produce no new graduates, the day will come when none of us are left. So, the questions we face are whether we want our school to be remembered and how it should be remembered.

As to the question of whether CMA should be remembered we would offer this. For 75 years our school produced generals and admirals, honorable politicians and successful businessmen, and a Medal of Honor recipient. We made our mark on our country and the world! We think this deserves remembering. During its existence, CMA stood tall to serve our country and the world. In its halls, we learned that our actions matter. While no longer a military academy, it remains an academic institution dedicated to the same principles we were taught as young cadets. Today, Columbia Academy proudly educates the next generation of leaders by continuing the tradition of building men and women in the service of others.

The memory of our school will serve as an example to current Columbia Academy students as they learn from the example of our spirit, character, and service. They will be inspired by our

accomplishments and our legacy as they take their place as leaders in our nation and the world.

The leadership of your alumni board believes that our Legacy Endowment can preserve our history in three ways. First, with the Legacy Endowment we can preserve our museum currently located within the former Guardhouse on Columbia Academy grounds. Second, we can continue to fund our CMA scholarship to a Columbia Academy graduate for college each year in perpetuity. Finally, we can help Columbia Academy maintain the historic structures on campus such as Old Main, Academy Hall and other original buildings.

We call upon you to consider contributing to this endowment, which will be used only to support the three CMAAA priorities listed below and not for general operations of Columbia Academy. You can do so now or through a bequest from your estate sometime in the future. Help tell our story by ensuring that CMA buildings are cared for and reflect our memories in perpetuity. As the last remaining Alumni, let us consider leaving a legacy that reflects the quality and character of our generation.

You can do this in three very important ways:

Support the CMAAA Museum:

Contribute directly to the cost of maintaining the museum that tells our stories and shares our commitment to service. Outright gifts in support of this priority help keep the museum open to the public and care for the archives. **GOAL: \$250,000 Gifts**

Award the Future: Each year, CMAAA provides a scholarship award to a deserving student. These awards help us share our stories with

the next generation of leaders and encourage them to achieve their dreams. Depending on funds raised, we would desire to award up to \$10,000 each year in scholarships. **GOAL: \$100,000 Gifts; \$1 Million Endowment**

Building A Legacy: A building endowment has been established to care for the heritage CMA structures and grounds in perpetuity. Consider leaving Columbia Academy in your will or estate plans for this Building Legacy Endowment and keep our campus grounds beautiful. **GOAL: \$5 Million Endowment**

To make a gift to support any of these CMAAA priorities, please make a check to: "CMAAA Legacy Endowment" and send to the Attention of Courtney Hulsey, Director of Development, 1101 West 7th Street, Columbia, TN 38401.

We are also pleased to share with you that an attorney has offered his services to assist with any estate or planned gifts to support these important CMAAA legacy priorities. If interested in his services, please contact: Lynn Watson, 615-594-2432. The Columbia Academy Board of Directors and Administration have endorsed this effort and thank you for your consideration.

Your legacy matters, and your gift will make a difference in the lives of these quality young men and women who march their path of service on the famed Columbia Military Academy campus.

Sincerely,

Tom Carr, President CMAAA, '75
Becky Moon, Treasurer CMAAA, '75

Columbia Academy Record Enrollment



The 2022-23 school years marks the TENTH consecutive year of record enrollment at Columbia Academy!! There are 1,154 Bulldogs between the Spring Hill and Columbia campuses this year. The Columbia Academy leadership is rightfully grateful for their teachers and staff who make Columbia Academy the school that it is. The Admissions team is also a critical element in making these enrollment numbers happen. As shown in the picture above they are:

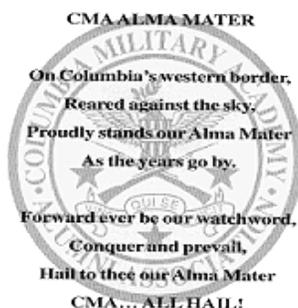
Lauren McDonald (left) is the Pre-school Director and she handles all of the admissions for the youngest Bulldogs.

Cindy Zientak (middle) is the Director of Admissions. She works tirelessly to give tours and help new families through the onboarding process.

Amberly Kaylor (right) is the former Spring Hill admissions coordinator, but now she holds the title of Assistant Director of Admissions.



Sunrise



CMA History Reprint From 2009

First published in the *Bugle* in the Spring 2009 edition and in the next four editions of the *Bugle*, this history is not intended to be a definitive accounting of the school's history, rather a reflection of my understanding of that history. I recognize the high probability that I made mistakes in my interpretation of the data and I hope that others will take the opportunity to correct any mistakes I made. The only intent is to provide an opportunity for alumni and friends of CMA to learn a little more about their school's history, which hopefully will help all better understand the institution that had such an influence on so many lives.

Columbia Arsenal - The Real Beginning -

Any accounting of Columbia Military Academy must begin with Columbia Arsenal. Had it not been for Columbia Arsenal, it is very likely that there would have never been a Columbia Military Academy. The property, facilities, and initial funding for CMA can all be traced to Columbia Arsenal. Colonel T. T. Wright of Nashville (known as the father of Columbia Arsenal) first brought the idea of a US Arsenal to Columbians when he brought the matter before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. At first it was thought by many to be too big a thing for Columbia to even ask for, much less expect. Colonel Wright was not dissuaded by this and brought the matter before the board a second time and asked that a committee be formed and sent to DeFuniak, Florida to attend a convention there where delegates from different cities were to meet to further the prospect of the Government building an arsenal somewhere in the South.



Colonel T. T. Wright,
"Father" of Columbia Arsenal

The board reluctantly appointed a committee that went to DeFuniak, and

much to the surprise of all Columbia, the city was named as the location for the Arsenal. Colonel Wright had been working with Congressman W.C. Whitthorne, of Columbia, to push the idea and as a result of the decision on the location Congressman Whitthorne introduced a bill in Congress appropriating \$200,000 for a United States Arsenal at Columbia. The bill was passed in 1888 and approved by President Cleveland on 1 May, 1888.

The citizens of Columbia and Maury County agreed to donate the ground necessary and, when the bill passed, raised \$15,250 for the purchase of the grounds known as Latta Place. The property was then deeded to the Government. The building site was selected by General Flagier, US Army Chief of Ordnance. This property was considered some of the most valuable around Columbia, located one and a quarter miles from Public Square and fronting on the L&N Railroad, Hampshire Pike and Mount Pleasant Pike. The property totaled 67 acres and included the old homestead Buena Vista, which had been on the property since before the Civil War.

Although Congressman Whitthorne obtained the facility for Columbia during the first administration of President Cleveland, construction did not begin until President Benjamin Harrison's administration. Ground was broken for the construction of the arsenal in January 1890. The laying of the cornerstone of the arsenal was celebrated in April 1890 with the Tennessee Governor and numerous dignitaries from Alabama, South Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois in attendance. It was at this time that the old home Buena Vista was razed. What is now known as Academy Hall was built at the location of Buena Vista.



Laying the foundation for the Commandant's Quarters, later known as Academy Hall, located at the site of Buena Vista.

The government spared no labor or

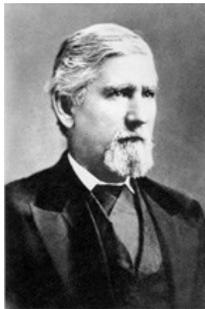
- Continued on Page 3 -

expense in developing and landscaping the property, with the U.S. Corps of Engineers doing the work. They laid out the drives and walks, graded parade grounds, included flower beds, shrubbery, impressive entrances and a bubbling fountain. The property was surrounded by an iron fence set in a foundation of Bowling Green Limestone, the same limestone used for the four main buildings. Water for the arsenal came from a dug well and was pumped into two 6,000 gallon tanks on the third floor of Main building.

Major Conley, US Army, was the first Commanding Officer of Columbia Arsenal. At the time there were 11 such arsenals spread across the United States. Some of these arsenals were used for manufacturing and others, including Columbia Arsenal, were used as storehouses for government munitions and supplies. Columbia Arsenal's main building stored some 36,000 Springfield rifles and three Gatling Guns. Included on the arsenal grounds were 2 twelve-pounder Napoleon guns, 2 three-inch wrought-iron Rodman rifles and 4 Co-chorn mortars. In addition to the arms and munitions stored at Columbia Arsenal, there were large inventories of saddles, blankets, bridles, and artillery and infantry equipment. There was a Grand Arsenal Celebration on July 13th 1892 when many dignitaries from Tennessee and the surrounding states came to Columbia Arsenal for a ball and reception in honor of the arsenal. (An original invitation to that event is on display in the CMA Museum.) By this time, Columbia Arsenal was the pride of Columbia. A feature article in the Columbia Daily Herald on April 11, 1892, included the following: "The first place to attract the eye of a visitor coming into Columbia on the South-bound train is the Columbia Arsenal, which includes nine buildings scattered over an area of sixty-seven acres, and which are so situated as to command the immediate attention of the stranger in our midst."

The original buildings on Columbia Arsenal consisted of the four main stone buildings made of Bowling Green limestone and either four or five brick buildings. The original stone buildings were the Commandant's Office (later the Guard House), the Storehouse or Main Building (later named Polk Hall in honor of President James K. Polk and now referred to as Old Main), the Headquarters Building (later named Ragsdale Hall in honor of Colonel C.A. Ragsdale who served CMA from 1930 to 1961 as principal, superintendent and president

and often referred to as the Administration building), and the Commandant's Quarters (later named Carmack Hall, Academy Hall, and finally Gracy Hall in honor of Colonel J.B. Gracy, long-time headmaster and Latin instructor at CMA). The brick buildings were used as shops and storage areas on the arsenal. They did not originally serve as barracks since the limited number of arsenal soldiers lived in the Main Building. Their designations as barracks did not happen until the time of Columbia Military Academy when they were converted into barracks. Those original brick buildings were the Machine Shop which became Barracks #5 (later named Black Hall in honor of Cadet Robert Black who was fatally injured in a football game on September 26, 1930), the barn or stables (later named Whitthorne Hall in honor of Congressman Whitthorne), Barracks #7 (later named Moore Hall in honor of John Trotwood Moore, State of Tennessee Librarian and Archivist from 1919 to 1929), Barracks #8 (later named Frierson Hall in honor of Captain Meade Frierson, Lieutenant-Adjutant of the CMA Corps of Cadets in 1911, who died in World War I), and possibly the building that later became Lee Hall. There is no information available on the original usage of the buildings that became Moore Hall and Frierson Hall. Some accounts identify the building that became Lee Hall as part of the original Columbia Arsenal buildings but it is possible that the building did not exist before 1913. It was originally a single story building that was later converted into a two story building. The first known reference to the building is in the 1914 timeframe when it was identified as a new gymnasium with a swimming pool. Seven of these original buildings are still standing with six still serving functional purposes. Whitthorne and Black Halls have been destroyed and Frierson Hall, while standing, is no longer in use.



*Congressman Whitthorne,
Columbia Arsenal proponent
and Whitthorne Hall namesake*

By 1895 there were a total of 20 personnel assigned to Columbia Arsenal; the Commanding Officer, two Sergeants, three Corporals, and fourteen Privates. The officers (commissioned and non-commissioned) lived with their families in the resident houses (now known as Ragsdale and Academy Halls) while the Privates lived on the second floor of the main building (now known as Polk Hall or Old Main) in large rooms that accommodated four men apiece. Each soldier had an iron bed with pillows, sheets and blankets; his share in the lockers built into the walls; and a place at the table in the room. The soldiers worked at various jobs on the arsenal (building, gardening, shop work, cooking, guard duty, etc). In return, they were furnished with uniform, shoes, shirts, underwear, meals and \$13.00 a month.

The property was used as an arsenal for 8 years. During the Spanish-American war in 1898, the arsenal was converted into a recuperative barracks for wounded and disabled soldiers. After the war and the release of the patients, the arsenal lay idle. In May of 1900, 10 years after the cornerstone for the arsenal was laid, the Chief of Army Ordnance recommended that Columbia Arsenal be closed. In August of 1901 twelve train car loads of arms, ammunition, and machinery were shipped from the arsenal to Rock Island, Illinois. The arsenal lay idle for a time after that with only a small guard for the protection of the property. In 1903 Congress passed a bill transferring the entire property to a board of trustees, without cost, for the purpose of maintaining therein a high class military school. Finally in May 1904 the assistant Secretary of War signed a deed transferring the arsenal and 67 acres to the Columbia Military Academy Board of Trustees and in June 1904 the US Army formally abandoned the arsenal and the property was received by the CMA Board of Trustees.

This is Part 1 of a six part series on the History of CMA. The remaining parts will be included in the next five editions of the Bugle.



Scenes from the 2014 CMAAA Grand Reunion



No Barbershop Quartet but a great group of Alumni sharing some time together Saturday night.



Bill Patrick ('73), Bobby Bain ('72) and Greg Thompson ('72) trying to figure out how to read a menu at dinner on Thursday night. Though they tried to leave Patrick at the hotel, he managed to find a way to the restaurant in time for dinner.



A.C. Howell (CMA Faculty 1963-1974) and Ed Lawing ('74) share a few moments on campus Saturday morning.



Seventy five alums and guests from the Decade of the 70's got together for dinner Friday night at Romano's Macaroni Grill in Cool Springs.



Tex Tucker ('71) gets in a little Crayola practice at Romano's Macaroni Grill before dinner Friday night.



Gathering for the Flag Pole Ceremony to honor the lost Alumni from the Classes of 1964 and 1965.



Attendees at this year's reunion were greeted by a new set of CMAAA Banners around the Quad. Ed Tuggle, Class of 1967, donated the 10 banners that go around the quad. Funds from the CMA Endowment were utilized to upgrade the poles holding the banners. These banners, along with the CMA Memorial on the quadrangle, provide a constant reminder of the campus heritage to all students.

Designated Honor Group for 2023 Grand Reunion

The designated honor group for the 2023 CMAAA Grand Reunion includes everyone who attended CMA during the decade of the 1950s, Graduate or Non-Graduate. Additionally, all individuals that were in Classes that graduated prior to the 1950s will be recognized. In addition to being members of the Corps of Cadets during a period of significant growth of CMA, these classes were instrumental in the establishment, growth and accomplishments of the CMA Alumni Association as we know it today. All members of these classes are encouraged to attend the 2023 reunion and be recognized during the banquet on Saturday night.

"Whhhhaazzuuppp Dudes" Odds and Ends



Another September, another gathering of CMA Alumni at Grayton Beach, Florida. Here you see the group at their favorite spot, the recently re-built Red Bar. By all indications, a great time was had by all. A great tradition organized and hosted by Tex Tucker and Jim Law.

Class Points of Contact for 2023 Reunion

Jimmy Bane ('72) and Woody Pettigrew ('73) are the Class contacts for the 50th Reunion Classes as part of the 2023 CMAAA Grand Reunion.

50 Year Reunion Contacts For 2023 **Class of 1972**
 Jimmy Bane
 Jbaneinvestments@yahoo.com
 205-342-0360

50 **Class of 1973**
 Woody Pettigrew
 wpettigrew@knology.net
 256-653-7303

SILVER TAPS

James A. Reiss, Class of '42

James Anthony Reiss was born in Detroit Michigan. He attended CMA, graduating with the Class of 1942. He was drafted into WWII where he served in the 106th Infantry Division. He fought in the infamous Battle of the Bulge where he was grievously wounded,



Jim Reiss

captured by the Germans, and sent to a prisoner of war camp in Germany. He was liberated on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945. Eventually repatriated to the United States, he was honorably discharged and awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the French Legion of Honor. After the war he was admitted to the University of Michigan on two canes where he majored in Theatre Arts and revealed being an Alpha Tau Omega. After a stint with General Motors in Detroit, he made his way to California where he met Jeanne, the love of his life. They made a great life together in Southern California with their children and grandchildren. Life was filled with family, church, music and the arts, and a continuous thirst for knowledge. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of San Clemente, where he served in numerous capacities, including president. He was a long-time member of the San Clemente Presbyterian Church and sang in the choir, including a trip to the International Church Music Festival in Bern, Switzerland, and at Carnegie Hall in New York. He is survived by his beloved wife of 69 years, Jeanne, their four children, nine grandchildren.

Allyn M. Lay, Class of '46

Allyn Monroe Lay was born October 22, 1928 in Oneida, TN to loving parents Orange West and Arlie M. Lay. He departed this world to his Savior's Kingdom on Sunday July 3, 2022 at the age of 93 years. Allyn attended CMA, graduating with the Class of 1946. He enjoyed his time in Columbia so much he was happy to later return



Allyn Lay

and make it his permanent home. He went from CMA to Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, TN graduating with a degree in Agriculture in 1950. He was drafted into the Army in 1950, and upon return in 1952 he attended the University of Louisville

where he studied Business. He went to work for his father's company, Cumberland Bedding Company in Somerset, KY where he met his future wife at the First Baptist Church. His compassion for helping people and his love of science led him to pursue his medical degree at the University of Tennessee Medical School where he graduated in 1962. Upon completion of his medical training, he and family moved to Maury County where he established his General Medicine practice in Mt. Pleasant, TN in partnership with John O. Williams, MD. He remained in General Practice until 1972 when he again was drawn to further his education at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA graduating in 1975. He and family returned once again to Maury County and to Columbia where he practiced Ophthalmology until he retired in 1990. He was preceded in death by his loving parents; the love of his life for 64 yrs, Cynthia Cunningham Lay; brothers David Harold Lay, William Lay, Robert Lay, Jack Lay; and a much-loved brother-in-law, Paul J. Cunningham. He is survived by his sons Allyn M. Lay, Jr. (Linda), John P. Lay, and daughter, Patricia Lay Gill (Brent); two grandsons; brother John C. Lay (Linda); sisters-in-law Nola Lay, Sue Lay and Patsy Cunningham; and many special nieces and nephews.

Thurel James Poe, Class of '55

T. James Poe, Jr. (Jim) 85 passed away September 11, 2022 at the Village of Germantown after a long illness. He grew up in Tullahoma, TN and attended CMA for three years graduating with the Class of 1955. After graduating from CMA he went to the University of Tennessee where he met & married his



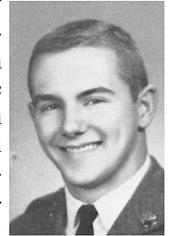
Jim Poe

wife of 65 years, Anna Kay (Bell) Poe. Jim graduated from the UT ROTC program as a Distinguished Military Graduate and received his commission in the U.S. Army. He served with distinction including 2 tours in Vietnam as an aviator earning awards & decorations that included the Bronze Star, Air Medal with "V" Device & OLC, Master Aviator Badge, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge & many other commendations. His love of flying did not end with his military retirement; he continued to fly

privately for many years. After retirement from the Army Jim had a career in Banking & Finance. He enjoyed many activities, including climbing Mt. Rainier, many long-distance cycling tours, hiking, and skiing. He especially loved music & dancing. Other than his wife he leaves behind 2 daughters, Lori Hall and Leanne Yates (Jim), and one brother, Tom Poe (Judy Anderson). He also leaves seven grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren.

Ron P. Stone, Class of '63 (PG)

TWA Captain Ronald Porter Stone "ran out of runway" (his words) and took his final flight on June 30th, 2022. He passed away at his new home in McKinney, Texas. Affectionately known as Ronnie or "Little Brother", Ron was born to Ira and Edith Stone on May 23rd, 1944 in Columbia, Tennessee. Athletic and exceptionally



Ron Stone

fast, he excelled as a star running back for the Columbia Lions. After high school graduation, he attended CMA as a full scholarship recipient with the PG Class of 1963. Ron was proud to have graduated from the prestigious military academy. His skill on the playing field landed him a full football scholarship to the University of Tennessee, where he studied airline transportation management. Ron flew corporate jets before flying for TWA as he and his wife at the time, Linda Stone, raised their children in Brentwood, Tennessee. His 29 years of service with TWA included a quick rise to the rank of International Captain and being selected as one of two pilots who successfully retrieved planes held hostage in the Middle East. With gear in tow, his next adventure took him west to Aspen Colorado, where he became the cofounder and CEO of Aspen Mountain Air, a regional airline. Aspen Mountain Air later acquired Lone Star Airlines, leading Ron to Texas. In Fort Worth at a downtown restaurant, he met the love of his life, Stacy Carlat Stone. They married in Aspen on July 4, 1998, and their delightful partnership sustained throughout the last 25 years of Ron's life, adventures, and accomplishments. The two, along with Stacy's daughter, Caroline, created homes and communities as

- Continued on Page 6 -

SILVER TAPS

- Continued from Page 5 -

Ron worked in several of the west's most iconic mountain destinations: Aspen, CO and surrounding areas, Jackson Hole, WY and Santa Fe, NM, where they were empty nesters. Ron was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, Blanche and "Daddy Newt" Ferguson; and stepson, Ryan Schifano. Ron leaves behind his wife Stacy; children Shannon, Brett, and Matt, stepchildren Tony and Caroline; two nephews and a niece; and three grandchildren.

Don Noffsinger, Class of '63

Donald Edward Noffsinger age 78 of Greenbrier, TN and formerly of Hopkinsville, KY passed away July 28, 2022 at Skyline Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Don was born December 7, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois. He attended CMA for three years, graduating with the Class of 1963. While at CMA,



Don Noffsinger

Don was on the Rifle Team and was part of the team that won the 1963 Hearst Rifle Championship. He served in the U.S. Army 1966-1969. He earned a Bachelors degree from Austin Peay State University and a Master's degree from Murray State University. He was retired from Kentucky Probation and Parole as a Parole Officer. He was a Kentucky Colonel, member of Fraternal Order of Police, Lions Club and CMA Board of Directors. He is preceded in death by his parents Joseph Edward Noffsinger and Edith LaRue Whitfield Noffsinger, his brother Lairy Wayne Noffsinger, and his sister Charlotte Noffsinger Toler

Ditty. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Gleneta Noffsinger; his son, Lance Noffsinger (Kim); his daughter, Doneta Noffsinger Williams (Brian); four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

William J. Fry, Class of '76

William Justice Fry, MD, age 64 of Seymour Tennessee passed away August 27, 2022. Bill attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1976. He was honorably discharged from the US Navy and later served in the reserves. Bill was a Summit Partner Physician, a member of the Sevierville Masonic Lodge, a member of the Seymour Breakfast Rotary Club and on the Board of Directors for the Smoky Mountain Boys and Girls Club. He was a member of Valley Grove Baptist Church. Doc Fry was a member of "The Virginian" golf club and loved good food and travel. He is preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Netta Fry; brother, George Bradley Fry; father-in-law, Melvin Newman. He is survived by his wife, Cathy Davis Fry; children, Christopher Bradley Fry (Jennifer Lane), Jessica Fry Tarwater (Eliga Tarwater); grandchildren, Gabriel Luke Tarwater, Abigail Ruth Tarwater, Elizabeth Rose Tarwater, Syllas Stewart, Alexis Lane, Tyson Miller; brother, Harold Fry; mother-in-law, Margaret Newman; Uncle, Eddie Ballard (Janette); cousins, Matt Ballard and wife Michele and their children, Jordan and Reid, cousins, Ann Greer and Ernie Greer (Monica).



Bill Fry

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