

CMAAA Board Meeting — 28 March



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From the President



Cadets – An American Soldier died last week. He was a husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle and CMA Graduate. He was the consummate military professional and a soldier's soldier. He was a charismatic, decorated leader and a top military historian who fought for the rights of others and those oppressed. This could be any one of our graduates but this is about the one I knew best – my brother Malcolm Gilchrist.

Mal and I spoke often of CMA and most recently about our reunion in August. I told him that many people asked about him and that he would really enjoy coming back. He agreed and said it would be great to come to our next reunion in 2016. At this point he was not sick nor did I have any idea I would get "that call" three weeks ago. But as fate would have it little did we know that this would not happen. Saying this only makes me want to encourage all of you to consider attending future reunions with your CMA "Brothers". If you put it off to next time you may regret it.

Speaking of my brother, Mal, I know there are many stories out there about him. I appreciated Bill Hart's recounting of the Color Guard win at the Vanderbilt Invitational and leading the Cotton Carnival Parade; but I want to relay one story that happened a few

years ago when I took him through our Museum. He was most impressed by our Museum, but one item really caught his eye. It was the Randolph Hearst Rifle Trophy that the CMA Rifle Team retired in 1963. You see at the time he saw that item in our Museum he had recently retired from the National Rifle Association as their Director of Competitions. He told me that they helped sponsor that trophy but no one ever knew what had happened to it. They had tried to find it but little did he know that his Alma Mater, Columbia Military Academy, had retired it. He said that he would let the NRA know that it was in good hands and congratulations to our 1963 Rifle Team.

I know this is a little different from my past articles but I appreciate the Membership for letting me express some of my thoughts about my brother who passed away suddenly on February 9th, 2015. I appreciate all the condolences and remembrances to me and my family. I want to note that we are starting to see not only those of our number who are a part of the "Greatest Generation" pass on but also those of the Korean and Vietnam Wars; so, if possible, I encourage you to make time to visit the campus soon. You will definitely enjoy our Museum and the campus.

We will begin our planning for our 2016 Grand Reunion soon and we will be honoring the 1966/1967 Classes celebrating their 50th reunions. I encourage the members of those classes, as well as all others, to make plans to attend and not to put it off till next time --

Mike Gilchrist
Class of 1963

CMA Alumni Association Annual Financial Report

The Association financial report for 2014 is reflected for both the General Fund and the Museum Fund. The General Fund started 2014 with a balance of \$38,687.93 and ended the year with a balance of \$35,164.16. Major expenses for the year (reunion expenses excluded) were for the publication of the *Bugle* (\$8,500), purchasing pictures and negatives from Orman Studios (\$2,500), and awarding the CMAAA Scholarship (\$1,500). The reunion expenses were covered by the revenue generated from the reunion. Additionally, the reunion was profitable to the degree that it, and dues collection during the year, generated enough income to cover all but \$3,523.77 of the total expenses for the year. Major planned expenses for 2014 include \$1,500 for the CMAAA Scholarship and \$6,000 for publication of the *Bugle* (four editions). The CMA Museum financial report for 2014 reflects that the account started the year with a balance of \$19,063.91 and ended the year with a balance of \$21,118.79. Major expenses for the year were the annual rent payment (\$1,200), insurance (\$240), miscellaneous upkeep (\$309) and the Museum's portion of purchasing the pictures and negatives from Orman Studios (\$2,500). Total revenue for the year included pledge payments (\$1,450), Ornament sales (\$580), Museum donations (\$3,050), and miscellaneous

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ous, including raffle and brick sales, (\$1,225). The result was a \$2,054.88 increase in the account balance. The current balance of \$21,118.79 plus budgeted revenue through 2022 (the life of the lease) of \$11,394 minus budgeted expenses through the life of the lease of \$19,750 leaves the Museum account with a projected balance of \$12,762.79 at the end of the current lease. That balance will cover the first five year option on the lease of the Museum along with insurance and annual maintenance expenses.

A Christmas Gift for Grandchildren

With the electronic evolution ever changing, gift considerations for grandchildren are becoming challenging for us retirees, so the idea of sharing more of our national heritage seemed logical. My wife and I decided to host a mini-vacation between the Christmas and New Year Holidays, a time when everyone's schedule was free. We thought a bit of history in a cottage in a colonial setting would be fun. And it was... for all 13 of us.

If the background of the street photo appears a bit colonial, that's because it is. It was taken in front of Shield's Tavern, on Duke of Gloucester Street in historic Williamsburg, Virginia.



Hosts James and Barbara Dickinson are on either end of this group awaiting entrance to the tavern. The scrumptious meal they received was definitely a highlight of the trip.

The idea for the mini-vacation came from Military Living's **R&R Travel News** (Nov-Dec 2013 issue) and, yes, we were able to stay in a former military cottage! The US Navy's Cheatham Annex is also a recreational site just six miles from the historic district and available to any holder of a military ID card, active or retired, who serves as the

sponsor. In this situation, it was me, with 31 years credit as a reserve officer. This site has much history itself; if one chooses to look further, check *Wikipedia*, via Google.



This former military cottage is actually a townhouse, with units A & B. The vacationers occupied both units, enjoying two kitchens, two dining areas, two washer/dryers, and six bedrooms, each with a flat screen TV.

The local Visitors Center is the obvious place to identify your site-seeing options; some free and for others there is a fee. Within a few miles are the historic sites of Jamestown and Yorktown. We were surprised to learn nearby Busch Gardens was still operating (on a reduced schedule during the holidays). On the final day/night of our stay, we agreed on moving to The Great Wolf Lodge, near the city limits (basically a huge hotel with an indoor aquatic complex open year around). This finale stretched the budget, but everyone had fun and a memorable experience to share back home.

James Dickinson
Class of 1955

Support the CMA Endowment

CMA Alumni and Friends are encouraged to make donations to the CMA Endowment managed by Columbia Academy and to consider including the endowment in their estate planning. To make a donation to the endowment, please send a check made out to Columbia Academy and annotate it as a donation for the CMA Endowment to Columbia Academy, 1101 West Seventh Street, Columbia, Tennessee 38401. All donations are tax deductible and will result in the donor receiving a receipt from Columbia Academy that can be used when filing tax returns.

New Items in the Museum



Rotary Club Award presented annually from 1951 to 1976

There are two new items on display in the CMA Museum. The first is the Annual Rotary Club Award that was awarded to a CMA Cadet each year from 1951 to 1976. Recipients' names for each year are included on the plaque. Courtney Wilhoite (Class of 53) donated the plaque to the Association. The second addition is the Sterling Seabrook Trophy that was awarded to the Best Drilled Company from 1950 to 1954. Cadets in the following companies may remember that they won the trophy during the cited year: B Company (49-50); D Company (50-51); C Company (51-52); B Company (52-53); and A Company (53-54). This trophy was recently given to Columbia Academy President, Dr. James Thomas, who turned it over to the CMA Museum.



Sterling Seabrook Trophy awarded annually from 1950 to 1954

Open Letter from CMA Alumnus Russell Thompson, Class of 1955



Over the years, people have asked me, "How did you get to CMA? Were you bad or what?" My answer was usually not too helpful to the inquiring person, in that I considered I was neither of those. Getting there was more of a physical answer because my mother and father determined that was where I should go to school in my high school years. I was not consulted. As a matter of fact, my younger brother was already signed up to go to CMA in 1951, and I was very happy to be thinking I was staying quietly at home in Jackson, Mississippi, looking to enjoy the Ninth Grade at one of the nationally outstanding Junior High Schools in all America. But life failed me in that. One morning I was walking down the stairs at our house, singing loud enough for my brother to hear, "You're in the Army now". That's when my father said that I was going to CMA too. That took the skip out of my spirit. I learned a lot about gloating then. A few days later we were both boxed up and hauled away to CMA.

My dorm was North Johnson Hall. Colonel Wilhoite and Major Bass were the dorm superintendents. They saw that we were in the rooms where we were assigned. My roommate was Jimmy Collette, a friend from Jackson who was also enrolled there, so at least I knew someone there right away. Others took more time.

You can't be a cadet without a uniform. That was provided immediately. It took me no time to accept always being in uniform on campus and in Co-

lumbia. But it was not particularly comfortable anywhere else in the world. However, that was pretty much all we had to wear except when we were on vacation at home. During leisure time on campus, in very few non-structured hours, we could wear what we wanted, within reason.

What time we were not in class, and for military drilling training, or engaged in the band and sports interests, time was itself very limited except for dorm study nightly. We spent a lot of time at the dorm. For other informal activities, a number of us learned, self-taught, to play stringed instruments. Several got good at it, and actually developed a Saturday morning hoe-down on the local radio station. One of that group was later in music in New Orleans for a long number of years. He later taught Russian in San Francisco. There are probably so many more unknown exceptional feats of talent that came from such random groups of young boys/men at CMA.

For those who were there, they can remember that the daily routine did not vary over the years. We woke up to a bugle call and went to sleep with Taps. We answered the bugle for all formations. We formed up on the quadrangle, establishing the battalion in five companies. Two platoons to each company were accounted for, and each morning after respecting the raising of the colors, lined up in formation to march in to breakfast in Main Hall.

Meals were good. The cooks were led by a kind lady who oversaw the dining hall that served all students at one time, at their assigned table. Grace was said by the faculty or student table leader. Genial conversation was encouraged. No one was ignored. Between meal snacks were on your own; nabs, candy, and twinkies were available at cost during the morning class break in the general purpose store, cleaners, and cigarettes, in the basement of Main. There was no prohibition on smoking where permitted, like the basement area of Main. All classes were held on the first and second floors of Main. There was an indoor drill area and rifle range on the attic floor where the training rifles were stored. All old cadets would remember and know this, but it bears repeating just for balance to this rendition. On rainy days, we used that indoor drill area. Obviously, we drilled every weekday.

Being assigned an M-1 Garand, WWII model, all nine pounds of it (firing pin withdrawn), was an easy matter. You put your name on the paper where the number of the rifle was printed and you better not forget that number or lose or abuse that weapon. We learned how to do military drill with the rifle, shouldered and all usual routines conducted during marching. There was a drill team that got recognition for being an outstanding group at fancy drill presentations. After lunch, we lined up as a battalion for daily drill periods of about an hour. And then band practice took place, or sports practice was conducted for football, basketball, and baseball in season. Golf, tennis, swimming and diving were also recognized as school sports for those who could make the teams. Band was what I knew.

My four years in the band were rewarding. I was "recruited" - loose term - for my band experience from junior high school, two years. So I knew something about band activities, marching and group playing. That didn't mean I was any good at it, just that I could play the trombone somewhat, and continued to play it while I was at CMA. The band had the same military structure as a rifle company of the battalion, which gave us our rank structure for organization. We had a captain, two first lieutenants, first sergeant, two platoon sergeants, a guidon bearer, three squad leaders, and three assistant squad leaders. Consequently, for leadership we did not look to the instrument chairs for organization except as necessary for music. One of the very good things about the band was that it gave you an opportunity to go away somewhere to play. That also served to represent the school in our marching and playing. The band usually did not get to compete in parades because we were considered too good, and we were. Except for one night at a CMA football game when the drum major got confused and directed the band into the fence. For a few moments we looked confused overall, but quickly got our bearings and marched back out of the confusion in proper ranks and lines. Each Sunday, formal parades were held on campus. These involved all the rifle companies and the band, participating in a proper military parade, trooping the line, and marching in review. This was Sunday entertain-

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ment for some of the township and parental visitors. It took up most of the afternoon, so there was not really much time off, ever. Also, on Sunday mornings we formed the battalion and marched in loose step, two abreast, down the sidewalk to town for church; your choice of service, but church. Those services have stuck with me over all these years. Afterwards, we marched back to CMA. This was not meant to be punishment. It actually served as another learning factor, to learn more about God and our part in His world. Only the most severe weather excused our going to church.

However this happened I can not remember, but several of us on one spring Saturday, when we could have town leave for the afternoon, decided that we were going spelunking. Someone in the group had learned of a rather large cave out to the north of town that we were able to get to, and in we went with flashlights to see it. No one had ever told us not to do this. Tennessee is known for its caves, so nothing seemed unusual about it. Except that we did not know what we might find in checking it out. What we did find was that it was really dark in there, and we tried very hard to not lose our way to be able to get out. There were a number of twists and turns to navigate. I remember finding a big cavernous area after squeezing through a narrow opening with some water running through it, but being spelunkers, we accepted a little mud and water as part of the action. After a while someone checked their watch and said that it was time to head back to CMA. Time has no reference in a cave or on a dark sea. We backed our way out and then we had no transportation to get back to school except we knew the railroad tracks would lead us back to the front gate. That was several miles. Being late meant demerits and other penalties. Late was not being in battalion formation in uniform for retreat, lowering the colors, and for supper. At that point I was not concerned about supper, but mainly the formation. After getting started on the way back, I elected to run and did. I slid into my place, clean and in uniform, just as the last of the recorded bugle call was sounding. I enjoyed the spelunking episode, but never tried it again.

By my senior year at CMA I had given up all hope of being allowed to re-

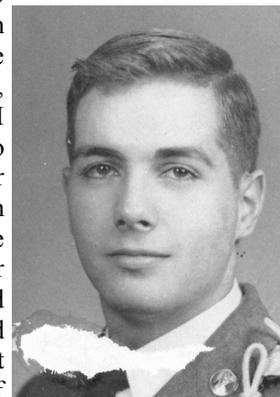
turn to Jackson, Mississippi, for completion of my high school opportunity there with my friends left behind. I had made new friends at CMA, some of whom have continued as friends over all these years of my adult life since graduating in 1955. In retrospect, CMA maybe had more than one failing as a school, but in others as an organization, it excelled. There was no effort at maintaining an alumni organization (that came later, almost too much later), so after graduation, we all went somewhere, either back home or elsewhere. Most went to college, but we have no record of where, how many graduated, or those who received advanced degrees, or developed a professional life.

We have a lot to thank Colonel Ragsdale, Colonel Gracy, Colonel Batts (emeritus), and Major Hatcher, Major Moore, and a number of others for what they did in their teaching, instilling a sense of honor, virtue, and integrity in us for our life's work. I do have to thank Major Hatcher, later Colonel, for giving me the honor and distinction of delivering the graduation baccalaureate address to the cadet corps in about 1973. As a newly minted Air Force Major in the Judge Advocate Department, I sincerely appreciated that opportunity to let those cadets know that there were a lot more good things ahead for them than what they could see when they were at CMA.

I am closing with just a few personal comments about me. Despite anything to the contrary, I did graduate in 1959 from Millsaps College, and then in 1964 from the University of Mississippi School of Law, and finally from Auburn University Montgomery. I volunteered for Air Force duty in Viet Nam in 1968 and relied on CMA training that year to keep my locker organized. My wife, Lucy, and I married in 1961. We have loved our two children, Melissa and Douglas, now fully grown with their wonderful grand-children. Douglas has retired after twenty years, a Commander, Navy Helicopter Pilot. They enjoy Middle Tennessee as their respective homes. Life is good. Praise God. By virtue of providential care in all my years, now 77, I've been led to many successful and enjoyable opportunities. The practice of law, I did not envision at CMA, but it has sufficed to be more than enough to try to get a handle on in my daily life at Ocean Springs, Mississippi. I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel

from the USAF Reserve in 1990. Another providential find in 1960-61 was for summer work on the Mississippi Coast catching fish for a project at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. In

returning to the coast on an Air Force assignment, my wife and I resolved to make our home here in 1974, where we raised our children and continued learning about living, all of which we have found fulfilling and exciting.



Russell as a CMA Senior during the 1954-55 school year.

Feedback has shown that the CMA Alumni enjoy reading the Bugle each quarter with the greatest interest being on articles, pictures, etc that show what our Alums are doing now. The "Whhhhhaazzuupp Dudes" and "CMA Memories" sections of the Bugle, as well as open letters, provide ways to share little snippets of memories, current events or news on alumni. If you have any items that you think would be of interest to other alums, please submit for inclusion in the Bugle.

MOVING?
STAY IN TOUCH...
Please forward your new address to:
CMA Alumni Association
804 Athenaeum Place
NAME: _____
GRADUATING CLASS: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: (____) _____
E-MAIL: _____

CMA Memories



Cadet Identified

Thanks to Dodge Patterson (Pat) Old ('70) and Tex Tucker ('71) for calling in and identifying the cadet in the above picture that was shown in the Winter 2014 edition of the *Bugle*. That is none other than Paul McGuff who attended CMA for one year graduating with the Class of 1970.

Over 15,000 young men and women had a first day at Columbia Military Academy

Brains of Older People are Slow Because They Know So Much

Submitted by Bill Wade, Class of '68 and Faculty Member 73-74, as sent to him by Major Lyle Hampton, Faculty Member 67-75

Older people do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full up, so too do humans take longer to access information, it has been suggested. Researchers say this slowing down is not the same as cognitive decline.

"The human brain works slower in old age," said Dr. Michael Ramscar, "but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more."

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!! We Are All Brilliant!

As a local cadet at CMA from 1963 to 1966, I can recall the noon meal vividly with humor. The waiters usually hated working our tables as most of us acted as if we hadn't eaten in a week. Before eating, we sat with crossed arms with forks in hands during the prayer, just waiting to be released so we could assault the chicken, roast, burger, or whatever. Colonel Hart kept his "evil eye" on us all the time. I also remember November 22nd, 1963 when President Kennedy was assassinated before we marched in from lunch formation. Colonel Hart made the announcement before we had the prayer. A very somber moment I will never forget.

J. David Williams
CMA Class of '66

I received a phone call the Sunday after Christmas as I was driving back to Madison, Alabama after spending Christmas in Tennessee. The call was from Pat Old, '70, letting me know that the Cadet in the picture from the Winter *Bugle* who was experiencing his first day at CMA was Paul McGuff. Pat and I talked for quite a while and after we did I started thinking about my first day at CMA in 1969 as a 14 year old freshman. As I recall, it was a Sunday afternoon and my parents had gotten me settled and then headed back home. I did not have any uniforms yet so I was wearing the standard blue jeans, white t-shirt and tennis shoes and walking around campus about as lost as I could be. I remember being up by the mail box in the parking lot in front of Main Building when this Cadet Officer that looked to be really old and really big came up to me and gave me my introduction to being a Cadet at a military school. I do not remember what all wisdom he imparted on me but I do remember that I was pretty scared during the entire exchange and that I realized that this was going to be a different life. The next day (I believe), we had our first battalion formation and there in front of my company formation was none other than the Cadet Officer who the day before had introduced me to life at CMA...and now he was my first Company Commander. That Cadet was Dodge Patterson (Pat) Old. So now I

knew it was going to be a tough year. The meanest guy on campus was my Company Commander and there was nothing I could do about it. Well, as it turned out, that first year at CMA went well and Pat Old, as well as all the leaders in my chain of command in A Company, were great guys that took care of those of us under their charge. Pat even explained to me on the phone how he and Tex Tucker (A Company First Sergeant that year) worked to get me ready to compete in a uniform inspection by the military staff. Though I don't think I will ever forget the fear I felt that first day, I am sure most of it was self-inflicted but I do give Pat credit for getting me started on the right foot...a little scared and ready to learn. Thanks Pat, and thanks for calling.

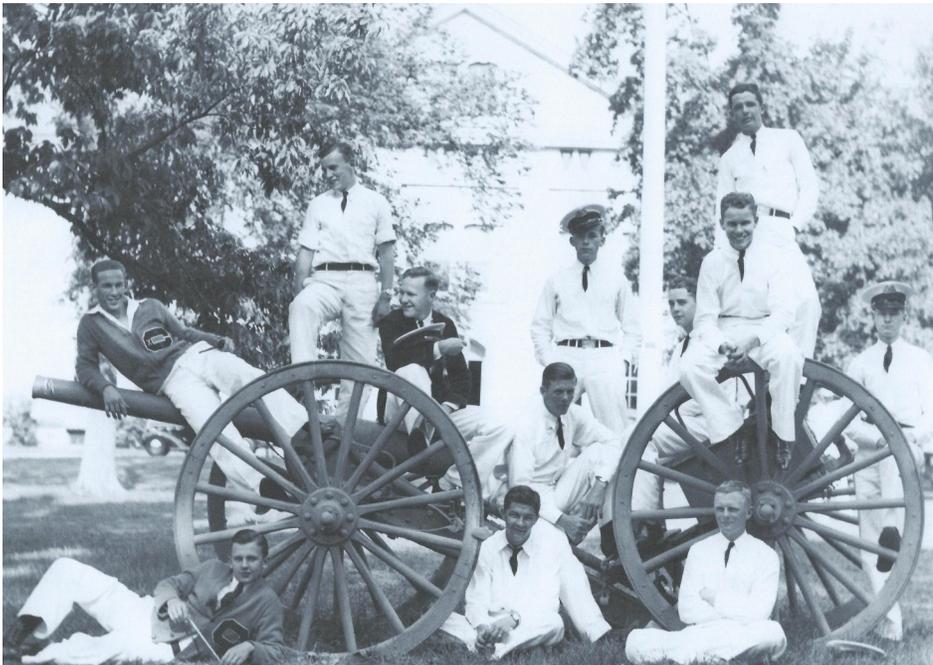
Woody Pettigrew
CMA Class of '73

Submit Your Story for Inclusion in a Future Edition of the Bugle

This is the second edition of the *Bugle* that incorporates a suggestion that was made during the last reunion to make a collection of our alumni's favorite stories from when they were at CMA. The stories that are told during the CMA Reunions are priceless and should be shared throughout the Alumni Association. There are great stories that are the kind of things that alumni enjoy reading in the *Bugle*. These stories will be run in the *Bugle* and, depending on the number of stories received, may be consolidated and bound as a "Collection of CMA Memories". All alumni are encouraged to provide their favorite memory/story from CMA to be included in this collection. The memory/story can be whatever length is necessary. This section is another way for CMA alumni to share experiences through the *Bugle*. If you have a memory/story you would like to share with other alumni please submit it to Woody Pettigrew at the below snail mail address or you can e-mail it to wpettigrew@knology.net.

Woody Pettigrew
101 Springton Drive
Madison, AL 35758

A Great Picture That Incorporated the CMA Cannon and Caisson



**Postgraduate Class for Government Academies Preparation
Columbia Military Academy, Columbia, Tennessee
1936-1937**

From Left to Right: John Stanley (on ground in front of forward wheel); Charles Byford (leaning on barrel); Barnes Reinhardt (standing); Douglas Miller (sitting-black sweater); Brewster Phillips (on ground between wheels); Phil Mahoney (sitting behind Brewster Phillips); Earnest Gardner (wearing headgear); Dick Stites (on ground in front of rear wheel); George Watson (sitting on rear wheel); Bob Allison (sitting on caisson behind George Watson); Bill Harrell (standing behind George Watson); Hugh Jackson (wearing headgear behind rear wheel). (Absent: Leo Huff)

The above picture was a proud possession of George Watson (PG '37) and was displayed in his assisted living apartment, along with his West Point memorabilia, until his passing on December 11, 2014. George was steadfastly proud to be a graduate of CMA and West Point. (Photo courtesy of Lane Watson)

“Whhhhhaazzuuppp Dudes” Odds and Ends

Cecil R. “Mike” Yarbro, who was a 10th grade Cadet at CMA in 1961, published a book last year that mentions CMA. The name of the book is “Mississippi Ponzi”. It is about a 17 million dollar Ponzi Scheme that was run in Mississippi. Mike was a victim of the scheme as well as being the author of the book. The book is available on Amazon if anyone is interested in reading it.

Lawrence A. Simons (‘71) announces the publication of “Water, Wind, Spirit, Stone – Poems by Lawrence A. Simons” - Eveready Press, 1817 Broadway, Nashville, TN

37203. www.eveready-usa.com. The poems explore the connections between the human spirit, the divine spirit and the elements of nature.

Available at Amazon.com:

http://www.amazon.com/Water-Spirit-Stone-Lawrence-Simons/dp/0989716155/ref=sr_1_1?__sk=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1419957595&sr=1-1&keywords=water%2C+wind%2C+spirit%2C+stone

Lawrence A. Simons is a U.S. Army Veteran, a former carpenter, social worker, Deputy Circuit Court Clerk, and songwriter. He is a devoted husband and father, a musician, a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, a horseman and woodsman, and lawyer in Nashville, Tennessee. Larry began writing poetry



at the age of 16. He first had an “awakening” to poetry in high school at Columbia Military Academy, through the poetry of Walt Whitman and Robert Frost, and he has been passionate about poetry ever since. He attributes his love of poetry to Capt. John Rose, who was an inspiring English Teacher at Columbia Military Academy. Larry is a 1975 graduate of Vanderbilt University, where he studied English, Poetry, Poetry Writing and Drama.

Larry studied law at The Nashville School of Law, and became a lawyer in 1988. He earned the Trial Advocacy Skills Diploma at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and he is a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation, a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Tennessee Association for Justice. He is in private trial practice in Nashville, Tennessee with a focus on Social Security Disability, SSI, Personal Injury, Divorce and Family Law.

Reminders on How You Can Help Your Association

You can save the Alumni Association printing and postage costs by downloading the *Bugle* directly from the CMAAA Website at www.cmaaa.com instead of receiving a hard copy in the mail. If you can help us reduce costs by downloading the *Bugle*, please notify Becky Moon at: athenae@bellsouth.net. Becky will keep your name on the mailing list to receive all mailings except the *Bugle*.

Everyone can help make the *Bugle* a better publication for all of us. If you have articles, pictures, Whhhhhaazzuuppp Dudes input, a CMA story, news, etc. that you would like to see in the next *Bugle* please provide input to Woody Pettigrew at wpettigrew@knology.net or via snail mail to:

Woody Pettigrew
101 Springton Drive
Madison, AL 35758

Attention CMAAA Board of Directors Members The Next Meeting Will Be On 28 March 2015

The next CMAAA Board of Directors meeting will be conducted in the Columbia Academy Cafeteria at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, March 28th. Board members please note the new time and location for the meeting. All CMAAA Board members are asked to make plans now to participate in this meeting.

Then and Now

William Raiford, Class of '55

A life-long Memphian, William H. "Bill" Raiford played football, ran track and captained the wrestling team his senior year at CMA, securing All Mid South honors in the 123 pound division. Following graduation from CMA, he attended the University of Oklahoma, joining Alpha Tau Omega fraternity along with a number of CMA classmates. He returned to Memphis the subsequent year enrolling at Memphis State University. A year of married life and a two year enlistment in the U.S. Army interrupted his college career delaying graduation from Memphis State until 1963 with a degree in Journalism. Having interned his senior year with the Memphis Press Scimitar, his first job following graduation was editor of the "Desoto County News", a weekly newspaper in Hernando, Mississippi. At the behest of former "Whitehaven Press" owner Bob Towery, he left the "Desoto County News" and took the helm of the "Suburban Press", an Olive Branch, Mississippi weekly. He subsequently made his way into truck trade publications as editor of "Southern Motor Cargo" magazine, retiring from that position in 1980. After a 10 year retirement he went back to work as Marketing Manager of Memphis Net and Twine, Inc., charged with putting together sales catalogs and developing a company web site. He retired from Memphis Net in 2009. Bill served as president of The



Associated Transportation Club of Memphis, the Raleigh/Bartlett Exchange Club and the Columbia Military Academy Alumni Association. He was a member of two Cotton Carnival krewes, Ennead and Sphinx, serving on the Boards of both organizations and was appointed King of Sphinx in 2013. He additionally served as membership chairman of Horseshoe Recreational Club, Horseshoe Lake, Arkansas and as treasurer of the Memphis Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, national honorary journalism fraternity in the late 1960s. He has two living children; Barbara Leigh Brown (Timmy), and Kenneth Farrow Raiford; and a number of grandchildren. Bill's oldest son,

Yancey Drew Raiford (Renee), passed away in 2012. Bill presently resides in Mid-town Memphis where he enjoys an occasional night of dancing at the Memphis Bop Club, an occasional drink with friends at the East Memphis Half Shell and an occasional dinner out at Frank Grisanti's.

Wally Couch, Class of '62

Wally was born in Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee, just ten miles southwest of CMA. He was the youngest of four children. Wally's father was a 5 & 10 Dime Store merchant in Mt. Pleasant for forty years. His father was not pleased with the public school system and in 1954 sent his boys, Jimmy and Wally, to CMA. Jimmy graduated in 1956 and Wally in 1962. Wally spent eight years at CMA along with his friend John Matthews who also graduated in the Class of '62. He was an officer twice; once in Junior School, then in Senior School. What a blow to your ego...8th grade an officer, 9th grade a private. Wally was a town dog, the name Cadets gave local students who went home at night. The boarding Cadets thought Wally had it made, but not so. He had to follow all the rules the other Cadets had, plus the rules of Mr. Couch. He was not allowed to play sports like the other Cadets; he was to leave school after Drill and work in his father's store until 5:30 p.m., cleaning floors, washing windows, restocking merchandise and waiting on customers. You see, Wally's dad was in the Marines from 1928 to 1932, and was a strong disciplinarian. So, Wally wanted to be a campus (boarding) Cadet. The closest he got to that was when every now and then he got to stay on campus over night while in Junior School. Major Baulch would allow Wally to stay at his dorm for special events. Wally loved CMA and could have made a career of it. He wasn't very happy when graduation came and he had to get out into the real world. Wally decided to go to Lambuth College with his friend Sam McLemore, Class of '62 also, who was going to Lambuth because his girl friend was going there. What a great reason, but that was the 60's. Wally was at Lambuth for five years majoring



in Biology and History. He met his lovely wife Karan at Lambuth and they have been married for 48 years. After leaving Lambuth, Wally went to work for the Memphis Park Commission as the assistant to the director of the Memphis Botanical Gardens, but this was not to be his career. He moved over to Code Enforcement for the City of Memphis, enforcing the Housing and Environmental Codes. He was promoted to senior inspector in 1980 and in 1983 promoted to Court Coordinator representing the Department of Code Enforcement in General Session Court. There he organized cases with the inspectors, prepared summons, served summons, placed summons on the court dockets and then appeared in court to present the cases to the Court, averaging 45 cases a month. He finished up his career in Memphis with the Memphis Fire Department, enforcing a new code. Wally retired from the City of Memphis in January 1997 and returned home to Mt. Pleasant, going to work for the Maury County Building Department as an inspector for 15 years, culminating his 42 years of public service in Code Enforcement. CMA had served him well, teaching him dedication, integrity and loyalty. Wally enjoys seeing everyone at the reunions and reminiscing. He now spends his time with his daughter and three granddaughters in Memphis and his son and three grandsons in Idaho.

Marshall McGaw, Class of '75

There was never any doubt where Marshall McGaw was going to go to school once he left elementary school. His mother's rowdy brothers were both CMA grads (Leslie 'Bud' Burnett... class of '45 and John 'Bucky' Burnett... class of '50) and she liked the discipline and education they had received there. Not that Marshall and his younger brother David (class of 1978) needed discipline, but their Mom wasn't taking any chances. Marshall arrived at "goober school" in the fall of 1969 for the 7th grade and stayed until graduation



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in 1975. During his time at CMA, Marshall earned the rank of First Lieutenant. He lettered in football and baseball, but basketball was his niche. He was a member of the 1975 District Championship team and earned All District and All Regional Tournament honors. Out of all the memories of his days at CMA, some of his fondest memories come from getting home each day in the days before he had a car of his own. He would catch a ride with older students heading to Mt Pleasant. Drivers wanted to pack in as many people in as possible because they charged a buck for gas money. As Marshall was low in seniority for seat placement at his younger age, he took many trips home in the trunks of various cars. Since he did not latch the trunk for fear of running out of air and a slight case of claustrophobia, he could not resist the temptation of raising the trunk lid and waving at people approaching from behind. Needless to say, there were some odd looks. After CMA, Marshall headed to Vanderbilt University School of Engineering. When home for the summer from Vanderbilt he told his parents he was going to take a year off from school to "find himself". It was the 70's after all. He "found himself" in a ditch working for minimum wage at his Dad's construction company. He spent a few years helping his Dad and learned how to run bulldozers, earthmovers and backhoes. He also learned how to drive the eighteen-wheeler used to haul the earthmoving equipment around Maury County. He decided that would be the life and bought an eighteen-wheeler. A year or so later he and '74 grad Hunter Robynette went into the trucking business. In 1977 he met his wife Jean who had recently moved to Columbia with her family from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She speaks of being unaware of CMA when she moved to town and being at the Polk Theater with some friends when one of them called someone in uniform a bellhop. She thought the person worked at the theater since he was a bellhop. In 1979 she married one of those bellhops and they will celebrate their 36th anniversary in June. Along the way they had three kids and now have 11 grandkids ranging from one to fourteen years old. After a few years in trucking Marshall went back to work for his dad and helped run the earthmoving company. Marshall's year off from

Vanderbilt eventually turned into 13 years and at the age of 32 Marshall enrolled at Columbia State Community College. He graduated in 1993 and then headed to Middle Tennessee State University. While in college Marshall began working as a forklift driver at Dana Corporation. He also had a farm in Mt Pleasant and with the help of his wife Jean raised cattle, horses, and a few other critters. While going to MTSU he drove 140 miles round trip four days a week, worked 2nd shift at Dana Corporation, and between Jean and himself kept the cows fed. He graduated with a degree in Chemistry in 1997. He stayed with Dana Corporation and began rising through the ranks. He was transferred to Dandridge, TN to become the operations manager of one of their facilities. He then took a transfer to Paris, TN and eventually to Ft Wayne, IN to become the regional manager of their division office. After four years in the frozen tundra of Indiana an opportunity came up with Dana Corporation in Pensacola, FL, so he and his family headed back south. While in Pensacola he decided to go back to school and in 2008 earned his MBA from the University of West Florida. That led him in two simultaneous directions. He is now a Senior Engineering and Maintenance Cost Analyst (corporate accountant) for a large chemical company in the Florida panhandle, and also teaches an online finance course at the University of Phoenix. In 2012 Marshall published his first book titled *Tales from the Backwards Z*, a book about some wacky characters from days gone by in the Mt. Pleasant area. You never know where our CMA roots will connect. Recently someone came in Marshall's office at work and noticed his Barracks Brick from CMA. She told him her dad, Benjamin 'Ed' Clement from Marion, KY, graduated from CMA in '67. Although Marshall has never met Cadet Clement, he hopes to connect at a future reunion. No matter how many years go by, Marshall still feels a strong bond with the people he went to school with at CMA. It is a very special group that shared the military school experiences that the majority of the population did not experience and he is sure glad his mother didn't change her mind about sending him... even if he didn't want to go (but sure glad he did).



SILVER TAPS

George Watson, PG Class of '37

George Watson passed away on December 11, 2014. He was born on January 18, 1917 in Paducah, Kentucky. George attended CMA and was a Post Graduate with the Class of 1937. After CMA, he attended the United States Military Academy. George Watson After graduation from West Point, he served in World War II (European Theater) and also had several post war assignments in Germany. He retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1963. George's assisted living facility apartment contained, for his viewing, a photo of his 1937 CMA Post Graduate Class, a USMA uniform Bucket helmet, a USMA blanket, his USMA diploma, and his Commission as a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery in the U.S. Army. He had saved these and other USMA memorabilia, reminding him of the pride he steadfastly held as a CMA and West Point graduate. George was preceded in death by his wife Iris. He is survived by two sons, Lane Watson and Andrew Watson, and one daughter, Frances Von Yeast.



Dave Gammill, Class of '42

Dave Gammill, age 90, of Jackson, Mississippi died December 12, 2014 after a brief illness. Mr. Gammill was born on November 10, 1924, the son of Emmett and Doris Gammill. Dave attended CMA and graduated with the Class of 1942. He then attended Marion Dave Gammill Military Academy and was a 1947 Graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology with degrees in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and was also the president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Dave remained a loyal "Rambling Wreck and a Hell of an Engineer". He served in the US Navy as a Lieutenant on the aircraft carrier USS Midway during Operation Frostbite. He married the love of his life, Virginia Page Gammill in 1950 and began his lifelong career in the Oil and Gas Business as an oil producer, finding many oil fields in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. He partnered with Frank Stranahan,



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SILVER TAPS

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not only in business but in numerous Pro-Am Golf Tournaments around the country. Later he was owner and president of Tide-way Oil Company. Being an avid golfer, he was a founding member of the Annandale Golf Club. He was also a member of the Petroleum Club, Land Man's Association, Jackson Country Club, and "The Supper Club". Dave's wide friendly smile was his trademark, as well as his many stories and jokes. He never met anyone who wasn't his "pards". His flamboyant personality suited his love for the oil business, great games of golf, gin rummy and college football. Dave was a kind and gentle man, a devout Christian and member of Grace Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Virginia Gammill; daughters Gailyn Thornton (John) and Dianna McShane; three grandchildren; an aunt; and a sister in law.

William Robert Middleton, Class of '50

William Robert Middleton, age 83, of Benton, Arkansas passed away on December 11, 2014. He was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas on December 11, 1931 to the late Francis Lorin Middleton and Clovis Tyo. He attended CMA for two years graduating with the Class of 1950. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by one son, Bob Middleton (Marjorie Ann). He is survived by son Mark Middleton (Anita), daughter Cindy Middleton, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



William Middleton

Junius Parham McMahon, Class of '41

The Lord called Junius Parham (J.P.) McMahon home on March 16, 2014 surrounded by those who loved him. JP attended CMA and graduated with the Class of 1941. He is preceded in death by his wife Sue Maxwell McMahon. He is survived by a son, Parham McMahon (Janice) of West Memphis, AR; two daughters, Susan Prentice (John) of West Memphis, AR and Mary



J.P. McMahon

Elyne Schrein (Ted) of Oak Ridge, TX; seven grandchildren; and 9 great grandchildren.

James Helmers, Class of '44

James Edgar Franklin Helmers was born in Cincinnati, OH on November 15, 1925 and died on July 12, 2014 in Eugene, OR. Jim was raised in Cincinnati, although as a teenager he was sent to military school to "keep him out of trouble." He attended CMA and graduated with the Class of 1944. His experiences there, and after he was drafted into the US Army during World War II, served to reinforce his innate commitment to social justice and equality. He later was a founding member of the Lane County ACLU. After the war, Jim pursued many years of education at Miami of Ohio and then the University of Oregon. A short career in banking convinced him to return to school for his teaching credentials. He taught for several years in the San Francisco Bay area; his public opposition to the death penalty cost him his position there and he returned with his family to Eugene. Jim then taught French, then English, at Willamette High School for over 20 years, retiring in 1984. He was very pleased when, in later years, former students would seek him out and remind him how many doors his teaching had opened for them. Once he retired from teaching, Jim read and travelled extensively and rafted the Rogue River (and others) as often as possible. He had a knack for always presenting a neat appearance, even after five days on the river. He loved to meet people and his gift for doing so, at home or while travelling, led to many outstanding experiences and many outstanding stories. Jim was an intelligent man, tolerant, ready to laugh, thoughtful, inquisitive, and appreciative of life's many ironies. He touched many lives and he is sorely missed. Jim is survived by his wife Bonnie Lindberg; children Sarah Helmers (Jon Hanson), Chris Helmers (Wendy White) and Catherine Paul; grandchildren Nathan Helmers and Sydney Helmers, and one great-grandchild. He was pre-deceased by his son Jason Helmers and his former wife Patricia Helmers.



Jim Helmers

Bill Napier, Class of '48

Bill Napier died December 30 2014 at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, GA. He was born January 21, 1930 in Columbia, TN to the late William James Napier Sr. and Irene King Napier. He attended CMA for two years (Fall 1943 to Summer 45) in the 8th and 9th grades and then graduated from Central High School in Columbia in the Class of 1948. He then attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where he was president of Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He was in the ROTC at UT and upon graduating he received the rank of First Lieutenant in the US Army. He was later stationed in Japan after WWII, serving in the Transportation Corps. Upon his return home, he farmed and started in the insurance business as an underwriter with Tennessee Farm Bureau in Columbia and later worked and retired from Royal Insurance in Memphis and Nashville where he retired in 1995. Bill and his late wife, Joyce, moved to Corinth, MS. in 2008 to be near family and friends. A member of the Kiwanis Club of Columbia and Corinth, where he was the oldest member. He was an active member and former deacon at First Presbyterian Church in Corinth. He loved the J.O.Y. group trips, helping with the "Buddy Bags" ministry and Men's Chapel Sunday School Class. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce Jenkins Napier; his parents; and his sister, Katherine (John) Spruill. He is survived by his son, William James Napier III (Beverly) of Corinth, MS; daughter, Betty Napier Robbins (James) of Cumming, GA.; and five grandchildren.



Bill Napier

Ray T. Rogers, Class of '55

Ray Tillman Rogers passed away on September 21st, 2014 in the Morris, Alabama home in which he was born on February 6th, 1937. Ray attended CMA for two years graduating with the Class of 1955. He owned and operated a hardware store in Warrior, Alabama for many decades and was a loyal member of Morris United Methodist Church.



Ray Rogers

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SILVER TAPS

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Malcolm Gilchrist, Class of '60

Malcolm Stanton (Gil) Gilchrist, Colonel, United States Army, Retired, age 72 of Sevierville, Tennessee passed away February 9th, 2015. He attended CMA for two years, graduating in 1960. He then attended and graduated from the United States Military Academy and earned Master's Degrees from Rice University and the U.S.



Malcolm Gilchrist

Army War College. He retired after 26 years in the Army, having served two tours in Vietnam. He was awarded the Silver Star for Valor as well as two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. He served in various leadership positions throughout his career, including a tour in the Pentagon on the Army Staff. Following retirement from the Army, he held a key position with and retired from the National Rifle Association. He was always a soldier and loved reading all things military. He loved gardening, enjoyed playing bridge, loved animals and was an avid supporter of the Sevier County Humane Society. He served as the secretary of the Sevierville Salvation Army Council. He was a Mason and a Shriner. He was preceded in death by parents Colonel (Retired) Malcolm Frank Gilchrist and Mrs. Mary Stanton Gilchrist and his sister Ann Gray Gilchrist. Survivors include his wife Martha Carden Gilchrist; son Malcolm Thomas Gilchrist (Tracy); daughter Ann Gray (James); brother Michael Gilchrist (Shannon); sister-in-law Diane Bannister Carter; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

McBroom Shirley, Class of '65

McBroom "Mac" Shirley, Jr., age 68, of College Grove, Tennessee, passed away on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at his home following a courageous battle with cancer. Mac was born on January 4, 1947, to the late McBroom Shirley and Ruby Murphy Shirley in Columbia, Tennessee. He Mac Shirley attended CMA for five years, graduating with the Class of 1965, and later attended Columbia State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He served in the United States Army from 1966-1970 having been commissioned from the U. S. Army Ordinance Corps Officer Candidate School in 1967. He served in the Republic of Viet Nam from 1968 until 1969. He was honorably discharged as a Captain in 1970. Mac was married to Rubie Boshers Shirley. He worked as an auto parts manager at various dealerships in the Middle Tennessee area. He was a member of the VFW and the American Legion. Mac is survived by his wife, Rubie Shirley of College Grove; children Elizabeth "Liz" Odum, Marshall Shirley, Christopher Shirley and Jennifer S. Bamford; sister, Anne (Jones) Bumpus; niece Jane Anne Bumpus and nephew Jim (Valerie) Bumpus. He was preceded in death by his parents, McBroom and Ruby Murphy Shirley, and sister, Jane Shirley



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