

# *Peter Francisco Society*

(formerly Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco)

## The Virginia Giant

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### **WE HAVE A NEW NAME: PETER FRANCISCO SOCIETY**

The topic of changing the name of the Society has arisen several times during the past few years. After much discussion this past July, the Board unanimously approved the motion to change the Society's name to **PETER FRANCISCO SOCIETY**. Our new name sounds more inclusive — interested parties will no longer think they are automatically excluded from membership because they are not descendants.

Changes are being made to our by-laws and other documents, as well as our website and Facebook page.

In addition to the Society's new name, we also have a new website and email address. In March 2019, Webmaster Brad Vogler changed hosts—our website is **[www.peterfrancisco.org](http://www.peterfrancisco.org)**. Our new email address is **[PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com](mailto:PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com)**.

# *Peter Francisco Society*

*cordially invites you to a Special Meeting and Dedication of the multi-purpose complex by W. E. Bowman Construction*

## ***Francisco Landing***

*Appomattox Street, Hopewell, VA*

**Saturday, September 21, 2019**

**10:00 am** – Meet and Greet – Appomattox Regional Library, Octagon Room  
209 E Cawson St., Hopewell, VA

~ Parking: at the Library, adjacent lot, or on the street ~

**10:30 am** – Brief Society Meeting

**11:00 am** – Tour of site of Francisco Landing, City Park, and River Walk\*  
(\* Wear comfortable shoes for the short walking tour)

**11:30 am** – Dedication of Francisco Landing

**12:00 Noon** – Complimentary Lunch – Beacon Theatre (Classroom Space)  
401 N. Main St., Hopewell, VA

**RSVP for Lunch – DEADLINE is September 15:**

Evite, [edbowman@webowman.com](mailto:edbowman@webowman.com), or attached form

**(FYI: Hotels in Hopewell are Best Western Plus and Stay-Over Suites)**

~ HIGHLIGHTS ~  
MARCH 2019 MEETING

The Society's first *combined* celebration of Peter Francisco Day and annual business meeting were held at the Virginia State Capitol on March 16, 2019, and included the presentation of a framed Resolution to Libby McLeod in recognition for her service as President of the Society from 2011-2018.



The new Board was elected and consists of:  
President - Linda McLeod (Richmond, VA);  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Erin Mwalwanda (Cedar Park, TX);  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Edith Buckley (Bothell, WA);  
Recording Secretary - Caroline Corum (Arlington, VA);  
and Treasurer - Ed Bowman (Richmond, VA).

Committee members for 2020 are: Archives; Membership & Genealogy - Sue Terminella; Fundraisers - Caroline Corum, Erin Mwalwanda, Mary Ellen Poindexter, Anne Wilson; Newsletters & Notifications - Anne Wilson, Erin Mwalwanda; Scholarship - Jane McCroskey, Penny Geiger, Karen Kardian, Kathleen Whanger; Website - Erin Mwalwanda, Sue Terminella, Anne Wilson. Our Webmaster is Brad Vogler and Historical Advisors are Edith Buckley and Gail Tonkens.

Gail is also heading a new Outreach Committee, the goal of which is *to be an advocate for the Peter Francisco Society; to reach out, encourage and develop a relationship with individuals, businesses, organizations or members of the community to assist the Society in enriching and preserving Peter Francisco's legacy.* All members of the Society are unofficially a part of the Outreach Committee and should already be advocates for Peter. Please share any contacts and/or information you have with Gail at [PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com](mailto:PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com).

*To volunteer to serve on any of these committees, please contact [PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com](mailto:PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com). Your ideas and participation are needed!*

After the meeting, members and guests gathered at Shockoe Hill Cemetery for a special tour emphasizing the life and legacy of Peter Francisco, including a visit to the Francisco family plot. Following the wreath-laying ceremony at Peter's gravesite, family members gathered at the Richmond Marriott for an impromptu dinner.



Annual wreath-laying ceremony at Peter Francisco's gravesite

**PETER FRANCISCO  
ON THE HISTORY CHANNEL**

In August, the History Channel aired a program "The Strongest Man in History" which featured Peter Francisco—beginning with his birth in Portugal and ending at his gravesite in Shockoe Hill Cemetery in Richmond, VA. This latest program and others presented in the past will educate many, not only about Peter's great strength, but of the important role he played in the American Revolution.

***PETER FRANCISCO DAY  
IN NEW JERSEY***

On February 21, 2019, the New Jersey Senate passed Bill SJR101, designating March 15 *annually* as Peter Francisco Day. The Commonwealth of Virginia began celebrating Peter Francisco Day *annually* on March 15, 1973, following Governor Lynwood Holton's official proclamation on February 17, 1973. Other states that celebrate Peter Francisco Day *annually* are Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania have celebrated Peter Francisco Day at least one year.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Tyler Belfield of Chesapeake, VA, is the recipient of our 2019 Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship. Tyler graduated from Hickory High School where he was an outstanding student, member of the Chess and Anime Clubs, and played saxophone in the marching and jazz bands. He is an active member of his church and has participated in numerous community service activities. In his essay about the rights and responsibilities of a U. S. citizen, Tyler stated, *"I plan to do my part in working hard and continuing to serve others in both my future career and community."* Tyler is attending the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, where he is majoring in computer science.



Tyler Belfield, recipient of the  
2019 Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship

Donations to the Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship Fund were received from the following:  
Patriot – Albert Costa; *In honor of Edith Buckley* - Ross & Gail Tonkens, Manuel & Maria Fernandes, and Harold Spainhour & Kim Shiflett; *In Memory of Barbara Taggart* – Anne Linares

Infantry - *In Memory of Anne's mother, Ida V. Shorter Craig* – Bill & Anne Wilson; *In Memory of J. Stuart Barret and Rosalie Francisco Barret* – Jane McCroskey

Militia - *In Memory of his great, great grandmother, Lucy Ann Francisco Brown* – William M. Corum;  
*In Memory of Glenna Corum* – Elizabeth C. Finley

~ Donations for the 2020 Scholarship Fund  
are now being accepted. ~

## AMONG OUR MEMBERS

- For his work in promoting Peter Francisco and the movie *LUSO*, and for developing relationships with leaders in Portugal, **Travis Bowman** was Knighted by Duarte Pio, Duke of Braganza of Portugal. The ceremony was held May 12 at the Morais Vineyards & Winery—a beautiful winery that produces Portuguese-style wines in Bealeton, Virginia. (Even though Portugal is no longer a monarchy, members of the former royal family are allowed to maintain titles—the Duke of Braganza would be king today if the country were still ruled by a monarch.) *Congratulations, Sir Travis!*



Paul & Linda Bowman (Travis' parents); Duarte Pio, Duke of Braganza; Michelle, Travis & Austin Bowman at the knighthood ceremony

- In August, brothers **Ed and Chip Bowman** vacationed with their wives, Lori and Brice, respectively, and their children in Portugal and Terceira Island where Peter Francisco was born. Ed's children are **Mollie, Kate and Jane**; Chip's are **Lily, Charlie and James**.



Kate, Lily, Ed, James, Chip, Charlie, Mollie & Jane Bowman in the courtyard at St Antonio Church.



- How did you celebrate Independence Day in 2019? With a parade, pool party, cookout, games, fireworks? Did you remember our country's patriots? Did you tell someone about Peter Francisco?



Before their neighborhood parade on Independence Day, Camryn Mwalwanda, guest soloist, sang *The National Anthem*, Kyan Mwalwanda handed out patriotic pins provided by the Twin Creeks Social Committee to veterans.

### ~In Memoriam~

We are saddened by the loss on February 27, 2019, of long-time member, Dorothy Copes of Richmond, VA.

### DUES INCREASE BEGINNING IN 2020

REMINDER: Annual dues are now \$15.00 for adults (18 years and older). Dues for children (17 years and younger) are still only \$2.00 per year. Payment may be sent as early as October 2019, and should be paid by the end of January 2020, if possible. *Please use the attached form for remittance.*

### 19<sup>th</sup> LIMITED EDITION CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Our Limited-Edition Ornament for 2019 is a personalized, maple honey dipper with ribbon for hanging on your tree or for use in your kitchen. Like so many farmers and villagers in the Colonial period, Peter Francisco, more than likely, raised honeybees at Locust Grove—using the honey as a sweetener and the beeswax to make candles. Each ornament is only \$12.00, including shipping and handling. *Please complete the form included with this newsletter to order your ornament.*

Our final ornament will be offered in 2020. Ornaments have been sold as a fundraiser since 2001—we hope that many of you have a complete collection! *If you are missing an ornament for a particular year, please contact Anne Wilson at [PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com](mailto:PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com) or 512-636-8197 to find out if that particular year's ornament is still available. (Cost for a past year's ornament is only \$8.00.)*

### ~ Update ~ **LUSO: THE MOVIE**

In March 2019, President Linda McLeod and *LUSO* production team members, Travis Bowman, Brian Patrick Wade, and Diego and Pedro Morgado, visited St Johns Church and other sites in Richmond, VA, as well as sites in Williamsburg, VA, and North Carolina, including Guilford Courthouse, to gather information about locations for filming.



President Linda McLeod with *LUSO* production team members, Travis Bowman, Diogo Morgado, Brian Patrick Wade (who will portray Peter Francisco in the movie) and Pedro Morgado, at St. John's Church, Richmond, VA

### “WHAT’S IN YOUR ATTIC?”

When member Karen Kardian of Richmond, Virginia, began looking through a box of old books in her attic last March, she discovered a *Medical Dictionary* which had belonged to Peter and Catherine Francisco's son, Dr. Benjamin M. Francisco of Louisa, VA (Karen's great, great grandfather).

While traveling in California, member Travis Bowman was contacted by Michael Geiger who had just purchased a framed copy of the painting of Peter Francisco at Tarleton's Raid. There are many history buffs like Mr. Geiger who enjoy collecting memorabilia about Peter and the Revolutionary War.

The Society maintains a list of items in the possession of members and would also like to have a list of items donated to the Society's records at the Library of Virginia. Please send a list of items in your possession (along with photos, if possible) and your list of donations to the Library to Sue Terminella, our Archives Committee Chair, at [PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com](mailto:PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com).

## **Peter Francisco Society**

www.peterfrancisco.org | PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com

***Purpose:** To compile and maintain the documented records of Peter Francisco and his descendants and to give him his rightful place in history.*

### **OFFICERS**

**President** ~ Linda McLeod

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** ~ Erin E. W. Mwalwanda

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** ~ Edith F. Buckley

**Recording Secretary** ~ Caroline Corum

**Corresponding Secretary** ~ open

**Treasurer** ~ Ed Bowman

**Historical Advisors** ~ Gail Tonkens, Edith Buckley

If you have news for the next issue of "The Virginia Giant," please send it to writers/editors Anne Wilson and Erin Mwalwanda at PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com