

Peter Francisco Society
The Virginia Giant

Volume 3

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Issue 1

**Peter Francisco
Memorial Scholarship**

All members: *Please notify family members, friends, and local high schools about our \$500 scholarship.* Requirements for applying can be found on our website www.peterfrancisco.org where the application can be downloaded. **Deadline for applying is April 15, 2020.**

**National Museum of the
U.S. Army – Fort Belvoir, VA**

As the Army's national landmark, this Museum plans to open on June 4, 2020, and will honor our soldiers – past, present, and future – and provide an interactive educational experience explaining the Army's role in creating and defending our nation, as well as its social initiatives and contributions for more than two hundred and forty years.

It is our understanding that, at present, **Peter Francisco** is the *only enlisted soldier* who fought in the American Revolutionary War who is honored in this national museum.

Peter Francisco Society
cordially requests your presence at its

Annual Business Meeting and Celebration of Peter Francisco Day

Sunday, March 15, 2020
12:00 noon
Old Hall of Delegates
Capitol Building, Richmond, Virginia

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Nancy Faxon, Historian & Curator
"The Education of Peter Francisco and the benefits thereof..."

~ Following the meeting ~

- Wreath-laying Ceremony at the Gravesite of Peter Francisco in Shockoe Hill Cemetery
- 4:00 p.m. - Dinner at The Boathouse Restaurant at Rocket's Landing
4708 E. Old Main Street, Richmond, VA

RSVP for Dinner: Evite; PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com; or mail enclosed form

Dedication of Francisco Landing

Members of the Society from across the nation – Washington, Oregon, Texas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts and Virginia – came together for the dedication of Francisco Landing in Hopewell, Virginia, on Saturday, September 21. Before the dedication, a brief Society meeting was held at the Appomattox Regional Library. Ed Bowman, President of W. E. Bowman Construction, Inc. of Richmond, Virginia, welcomed all to the dedication honoring Peter Francisco – hero of the American Revolutionary War – noted ancestor of many present – and Hopewell’s most famous former resident.

Distinguished guests included members of the Hopewell City Council, City of Hopewell, Hopewell Planning Commission, and Hopewell Downtown Partnership, as well as Nancy Rodrigues and her husband Michael Abley. Nancy, who is of Portuguese descent, has held numerous positions in government and served as Deputy Director of the 2019 Commemoration celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Virginia History (1619-2019). In her remarks, Nancy encouraged Society members to participate in the **Make Portuguese Count** campaign led by the Portuguese-American Leadership Council of the United States (PALCUS) by including “Portuguese” as their heritage in the 2020 U.S. Census. She also presented a letter to the Society from Virginia Governor Ralph S. Northam which includes the following...*Peter’s life is the story of abandonment, indentured servitude, resistance, love and hope. He will forever remain a part of Virginia’s history...*

Opening Prayer was led by Anne Wilson. A copy of *Peter Francisco, The Portuguese Patriot* by William Arthur Moon was presented by President Linda McLeod to Brian Manning, Director of the Appomattox Regional Library. Remarks were given by Edith Francisco Buckley – a founding member of the Society. Ed Bowman gave a brief history of the life of Peter Francisco (*copy included on the Society’s website www.peterfrancisco.org*) and then led in the following dedication:

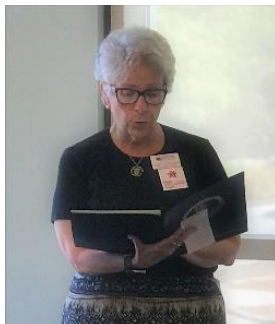
“We, W. E. Bowman Construction Company and the City of Hopewell, Virginia, along with the approval and participation of the Peter Francisco Society, hereby dedicate Francisco Landing to the memory of Peter Francisco and in his honor. In naming this complex in his honor, we hereby help fulfill the purpose of the Peter Francisco Society. May those who come here learn more about this hero of the American Revolution and, in turn, share their knowledge with others.”

Charles “Chip” Bowman, Executive Director of W. E. Bowman Construction, Inc., escorted attendees across the street to the site where Francisco Landing will be built, and showed plans for the multi-purpose structure. Next was a short walk to the bust of Peter Francisco at City Hall, followed by lunch hosted by the Bowmans at the Historic Beacon Theatre.

As we toured City Park and River Walk along the Appomattox River where Peter Francisco was abandoned as a young boy in 1765, we had the opportunity to reflect upon Peter's extraordinary life and heroism.



PFS President Linda McLeod and Director Brian Manning



Nancy Rodrigues



Chip Bowman shows plans for Francisco Landing

Among Our Members

Travis Bowman and Brian Patrick Wade were guests at the Portuguese-American Leadership Council of the United States in Sacramento, California, on October 13, 2019.

~In Memoriam~

Our condolences to Gail Tonkens, Historical Advisor, Leawood, Kansas, upon the death of her husband Ross on December 23, 2019.

Your Genealogy

Sue Terminella has been updating the genealogies for Peter and Susannah and Peter and Catherine's families. Check your line on our website at peterfrancisco.org/genealogy and then email Sue at sue.terminella@gmail.com with any additions, corrections or questions you may have.

Gail Tonkens (Historical Advisor) and Sue are researching three recent requests based on DNA testing results from potential members concerning their Francisco lineage.

Member Ashby Corum of Birmingham, MI, uses www.Geni.com to gather his genealogical information. As he states, "*There are pros and cons to all the genealogy sites...this one is crowd-sourced...some trash as well as treasures. Basic membership is free...the paid version will tell you if and how you are related to famous people. You can also import your genealogy DNA profile to find genetic relatives...Geni also allows the entry of both biological and adoptive parents.*" Ashby and his sister Caroline (our Recording Secretary) invite members to join them on www.Geni.com.

Make PORTUGUESE Count

The Portuguese-American Leadership Council of the United States (PALCUS) has begun a campaign—Make PORTUGUESE Count—whose objectives are to promote participation of Portuguese-Americans in the 2020 U.S. Census and to ensure the identification and enumeration of Portuguese-Americans residing in the United States under the Race/Origins question of the 2020 U.S. Census questionnaire.

Even though our Society is not participating as an *official affiliate organization* in this endeavor, we encourage all members and their families to list "Portuguese" as their heritage in the 2020 U. S. Census.

LUSO : The Movie

There are new possibilities which may create changes with the production of *LUSO*. In addition, Travis Bowman reports that he has signed with Clube do Autor for translation and distribution of the movie in Portugal once it is released.



Attendees at the bust of Peter Francisco



Bob Grimes, Anne Wilson, Bill & Suzanne Brown
Mary Ellen Poindexter, Bill Wilson, B.J. Craig



Hopewell, Virginia, where the
Appomattox River meets the James River

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

1st Vice President ~ Erin E. W. Mwalwanda

2nd 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