

Peter Francisco Society

The Virginia Giant

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Issue 2

HONORING PETER FRANCISCO

National Museum of the U.S. Army

The Executive Board voted unanimously in July to purchase an 8"x8" Mesabi granite brick in honor of Peter Francisco to be placed along the "Path of Remembrance" at the new National Museum of the U.S. Army at Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Be a part of this tribute to Peter by making your tax-deductible donation toward the \$500 cost of this brick. Use the order form to send your donation to Ed Bowman, PFS Treasurer. *The list of donors will appear in our February 2021 newsletter.*



The summer opening of the museum was postponed because of Coronavirus. Once opened, "free" date/timed entry tickets will be available online.

Veterans' Memorial Park: Crewe, Virginia

Ralph Vick of Crewe, VA, advised the Society of this recently renamed park *to honor the men and women from Crewe who have served our nation, some of whom gave their lives in defense of the freedom and prosperity we too often take for granted.*

Last spring four new historical, interpretive markers telling the story of Peter Francisco, Tarleton's Southside Virginia Raid, and Francisco's Fight at nearby Ward's Tavern were installed in the park. Many of our members have ties to Crewe, and our Executive Board is considering holding a Society meeting there in the near future.

2020 CANCELLATIONS Due to COVID-19

- Business Meeting - March 15, 2020 - We are hopeful that none of our members or their families was directly affected by this deadly virus. Nancy Faxon, who would have been our guest speaker, will present at a later date. A framed commendation for our *late* past president, Allen B. Childress, was mailed to his family for inclusion in his memorial service.

- The Society will NOT meet in 2020. Our next meeting most likely will be held in March 2021, and will be announced in the February 2021 issue of *The Virginia Giant*.

- Tour of the Azores with Travis Bowman has been *postponed* until 2021. This "chance-of-a lifetime" trip, centered around Peter Francisco, will include visits to the Island of Terceira and the seaside town of Porto Judeu, (birthplace of Peter and from which he was abducted), and the Islands of Pico, Faial and Sao Miguel. *See our February 2021 newsletter for details.*

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Epidemic Fighter

During the American Revolution, a smallpox outbreak threatened the Continental Army. Facing political opposition, George Washington immediately isolated any soldier suspected of infection, and limited outside contact. Washington, who had had smallpox as a teenager, was immune. He ordered his troops to be inoculated against the virus by *variolation*—a small incision was made in a patient's arm and a small dose of the live virus was inserted to trigger immunity. Infection rates dropped from 20% to 1%. After this success rate, the Colonies lifted their bans on variolation, thus invoking America's first major public health legislation.

ANCESTRY of Peter Francisco

Our Historical Advisor, Gail Tonkens, with the assistance of Dr. Joao Ventura of The Azores, Portugal, completed a six-year exhaustive research of the ancestors of Peter Francisco. On April 24, 2020, Gail presented the board with a copy of the 500+ pages of Peter's family tree which dates back as far as pre-100's BC, and includes such historical figures as Julia Caesar (sister of Julius), Marc Anthony, and many royals. Peter also shares a common ancestor with Princess Diana, Winston Churchill, and George Washington!

DESCENDANTS of Peter Francisco

Sue Terminella, Genealogy Chair, has worked countless hours updating the genealogies of Peter Francisco and his first wife Susannah Anderson, and of Peter and his second wife Catherine Brooke. In May, both updated versions were placed on the Society's website. (The 2011 versions by Don and Alla Pruitt have been moved to *Genealogy/Archives*.)

Please read over those genealogies; if you can make additions or corrections, contact Sue at sue.terminella@gmail.com or peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com. This is an ongoing process and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to our 2020 Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship winners—Mollie C. Bowman of Richmond, VA, and Davon J. Young of Hampton, VA.

Mollie is the daughter of Ed and Lori Bowman and only the second Society member to receive our Scholarship. She is an outstanding graduate of Douglas S. Freeman High School in Richmond, VA. Her extra-curricular activities included tutoring and serving as a member of the musical worship team at her church. Mollie is majoring in English, with minors in Religious Studies and Sociology, at The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA.

Davon Young was Salutatorian of his graduating class at Phoebus High School in Hampton, VA, where he participated in the New Horizons Governor's School for Science & Technology. His community service included working in the preschool department in his church, and serving as a junior counselor. Davon is studying Computer Science at Virginia Wesleyan University in Virginia Beach, VA.



President Linda McLeod presented our scholarship certificate to Mollie Bowman.



Scholarship Chairperson Jane McCroskey presented our scholarship certificate to Davon Young.

One of our \$500 scholarships was completely funded by donations from the following:

Patriot: Anne Linares (*In memory of Dr. Juan Francisco Linares*); Gail Tonkens (*In memory of Dr. Ross Tonkens*); Harold Spainhour, Kim Shiflett, and Gail Tonkens (*In honor of Edith F. Buckley*) **Infantry:** Sue Terminella (*In memory of Helen Winston Edwards*); Anne & Bill Wilson (*In memory of Anne's mother Ida Shorter Craig*)

Militia: Elizabeth Finley (*In memory of Glenna Corum*) **Colonial:** Bob Grimes

Tax-exempt donations are being accepted now for our 2021 Scholarships.

Colonial \$10 Militia \$25 Infantry \$50 Cavalry \$75 Patriot \$100
2 new categories: Regimental \$250 Revolutionary \$500 (*provides one full scholarship*)

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

In the Spring of 2020, **Camryn Mwalwanda** of Cedar Park, Texas, won a Silver Key Award in the Scholastic Writing Competition – the nation’s longest-running and most prestigious art and writing contest – for her short story, “Like Eyes to the Soul.” Camryn is presently a sophomore at Summit Christian Academy.



Suzanne Brown (*Mrs. William M. Brown III*), a long-standing member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Richmond, VA, serves as the Flag of the USA Director for the Commonwealth Chapter. Suzanne joined NSDAR through her ancestor Jacob Heffner.

William “Bill” M. Brown, III was inducted into the Richmond Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution on Saturday, August 29, 2020, at the gravesite of Peter Francisco in Shockoe Hill Cemetery. Ed Bowman gave a brief presentation about Peter Francisco at the event.



Suzanne Brown with Marcy Thomas, Regent of the Commonwealth Chapter, at the wreath-laying in Yorktown, VA.



William M. Haskins, Jr., State Registrar, presents membership certificate to Bill Brown while Dennis Peterson, Richmond SAR President, and Bill’s son, Will Brown, participate in the ceremony.



Bill Brown and his sons, Alex and Will, at a meeting of the Virginia Sons of the Revolution.

~Welcome, New Members~

Zady Carlton of West Point, VA; **Joshua Horowitz** of Philadelphia, PA; and **Charlene Melson** of Poway, CA.

~ In Memoriam ~

Allen B. Childress, past president of the Society from 1990-2004, passed away on April 18, 2020, at his home in Roanoke, VA. Allen is survived by his wife Ama; daughter Monique Fortunato, her husband Edward, and their children, Isabella and Edward, of Fairfax Station, VA (all members of the Society); and son Allen Jr, his wife Jennifer, and their children, Allen III and Jaelyn, of Plano, TX. Allen was instrumental in the restoration of Locust Grove, and he personally delivered several hundred copies of W. A. Moon’s book, *Peter Francisco, The Portuguese Patriot*, to states in New England. A Commendation to Allen from the Society was presented to his wife Ama and displayed at his memorial service.

Mary Joseph Francisco (wife of the *late* Charles P. Francisco, Sr.) of Beaverdam, VA, passed away peacefully on January 12, 2020. Mary Jo is survived by her children—Sandra Skinner and Richard (members of the Society), and Chuck, Rhett, John, and Theresa.

Dr. Juan Francisco Linares, husband of Anne Turner Linares of Richmond, VA, passed away on February 23, 2020. Dr. Linares was born in Havana, Cuba, and moved to the U.S. in the 1960’s, working first as a structural engineer in New York, and later as a professor of advanced mathematics at Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia Union University.

~ FUNDRAISERS ~

Smile...You're on Amazon

We're excited to announce a new fundraiser in which everyone can participate!

When ordering items from Amazon, use Amazon Smile which offers the exact same shopping experience as Amazon or Amazon Prime. The only difference is that when you use Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the cost of qualifying purchases to the non-profit organization of your choice – with no additional charge to you.

- When signing up for Amazon Smile, click on our Society's unique link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7433649>
- You will be taken to smile.amazon.com and automatically asked if you want to support the Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco (aka Peter Francisco Society). You will only need to select the Society once—it will be stored as your organization of choice.
- Remember, whenever you shop through Amazon, be sure to go to smile.amazon.com so that your purchase will be counted toward Amazon's donations to the Society.

Share the Society's unique link with family and friends so they can sign up to increase donations from Amazon! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7433649>

If you use the Amazon app to make purchases, you will need to activate Smile on your app:

- Once in your app, go to the menu (the three horizontal bars at the top left)
- Scroll down and select "Settings"
- Select "Amazon Smile"
- Follow the prompts to enable Smile on your app

Final Ornament

The tradition of Christmas trees in Virginia began in Williamsburg in 1842, when William & Mary Professor, Charles Minnegerode, spent the holidays in the St. George Tucker House. Missing the traditions of his native Germany, he shared the practice of bringing an evergreen tree into the house and decorating it with candles and strings of popcorn and berries.

Even though Peter Francisco died nine years *before* this first Christmas tree was introduced, his family quickly embraced the idea. Today, Peter's descendants and other Society members continue to decorate their trees with ornaments, including our Limited-Edition ones, like this year's *final offering*—a German Nutcracker—in recognition of Professor Minnegerode's contribution to Christmas in Virginia. (*Please use order form.*)

Notecards/Books

Locust Grove notecards and a few copies of *Peter Francisco, The Portuguese Patriot* are still available for purchase. In addition to AmazonSmile, other fundraisers that will bring in larger returns—such as an online auction for Peter Francisco memorabilia, a copy of the Ancestry of Peter Francisco, and other items—are being considered for 2021. *Please submit your fundraising ideas to Caroline Corum at peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com.*

LUSO - Update

The film industry has been changing—more people are watching movies and series at home. With this in mind, Brian Patrick Wade provided the *LUSO* screenplay to Mona Garcea, EVP/Head of Television for Kingdom Studios (a Lionsgate partner); discussions have taken place in regard to producing *LUSO* as a television series of 7-10 episodes.

Full production funding by Lionsgate requires an experienced "showrunner" to write the pilot. Craig Tittle, one of the writers of *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* (a highly successful ABC series), agreed to write the *LUSO* episodes and has completed the pilot.

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