

Peter Francisco Society

The Virginia Giant

Volume 3

February 2021

Issue 3

No March Meeting – Celebrate Peter Francisco Day at Home with a Virtual Trip

The Society will **NOT** meet in March in celebration of Peter Francisco Day in Virginia (March 15). Instead, we are offering a way for you to celebrate Peter Francisco Day at home! 1st Vice President Erin Mwalwanda has put together a “virtual trip” of sites related to Peter Francisco and his life. See the beautiful Island of Terceira where Peter was born and aerial footage of where he was abandoned at City Point, Virginia. Take a tour of St. John’s Church and hear the very speech Peter heard Patrick Henry deliver, see the battle map of the Battle of Camden, and read a firsthand account by the archaeologist responsible for the excavation of Locust Grove.

Links for this virtual celebration of Peter Francisco Day will be available on our website, www.peterfrancisco.org and will be self-guided, so you can visit as many sites as you like, whenever you like. We hope you will join us in celebrating Peter Francisco Day 2021 in this unique way.

~ SAVE THE DATE ~

Saturday, October 16, 2021

**Annual Business Meeting
and
Celebration of the 50th Anniversary
of the founding of the Peter Francisco Society**

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**Veterans’ Memorial Park
Crewe, Virginia**

In the Spring of 2020, three displays honoring Peter Francisco in recognition of his participation in nearby battles of the American Revolutionary War were installed in the Crewe Veterans’ Memorial Park. Our meeting will include visitation to the park and these displays, as well as to the Crewe Railroad Museum and the WSVS Historic Radio Museum.

If you are interested in attending this meeting and possibly staying overnight, complete the form at the end of this newsletter, or email your information to peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com. If there is sufficient interest, a block of rooms may be reserved in a nearby hotel or Bed & Breakfast.

All plans are tentative and dependent upon safety protocols for Covid-19.
Details will be in our September 2021 newsletter.

NATIONAL MUSEUM of the U.S. ARMY

The National Museum of the United States Army opened its doors on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2020. The Society received a letter from LTG Roger Schultz, USA-Ret, President of the Army Historical Foundation, thanking us for our support in making this magnificent museum become a reality. The Society hopes to tour the museum in 2022.

Donations are still being accepted for the "Brick" honoring Peter Francisco included in the "Path of Remembrance" at the museum. We are grateful to those listed below who already have contributed to the cost of this honor:

John L. Barret (*In memory of William Pettus Barret*)
Anne Linares
Anne & Bill Wilson

Gail Tonkens
George Farias

Sue Terminella
William Corum
Don Pruitt

Zady Carlton
Mary Ellen Poindexter
Richard Wilson

SCHOLARSHIPS – To All Members

Please notify family and friends to have any graduating high school seniors apply for our \$500 Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship. Requirements and applications can be found on our website www.peterfrancisco.org. **Deadline for applications is April 15.**

To donate to the 2021 Scholarships, please use the return form included in this newsletter. A complete list of donors will appear in our September 2021 newsletter.

~ COMING SOON ~ Emails for officers/On-line payments

Society Secretary, Caroline Corum, has submitted an application for the Society to G-Suite. When the application is approved, we will have access to Google Meet, as well as to a shared drive in the name of the Society which will allow us to set up institutional email addresses for our officers.

Once those email addresses are created, then an on-line system will be established for members to make payments for dues and donations, rather than having to mail in checks. This system will simplify the payment process for our members and streamline bookkeeping for our Treasurer.

IMPORTANT CHANGE – Decrease in Dues for Full-Time Students

In February, our Executive Board unanimously voted to reduce dues for **Full-time Students (thru the age of 24) to the same as those for Children—only \$2 per year.** (This change begins with the payment of dues for 2021 and is **not** retroactive.) We hope this decrease in dues will encourage our younger members to remain active, contributing members of the Society, while continuing their education. Dues for all other adults are still \$15 per year. (*See payment form at the end of this newsletter.*)

TOUR OF THE AZORES – Rescheduled to June 23 – July 3, 2021

For the chance-of-a-lifetime trip centered around Peter Francisco, travel with Travis Bowman to the Azores to visit the Island of Terceira, and the seaside town of Porto Judeu (birthplace of Peter Francisco), as well as the Islands of Pico, Faial and Sao Miguel.

Itinerary includes round-trip airfare from Boston, 9 nights, 16 meals, private tours and transfers, all flights within the Azores, and a professional, English-speaking tour guide.

For details, go to <http://www.sagresvacations.com/itinerary/en/544>

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

The Society's Executive Board is presenting our Webmaster, **Brad Vogler**, with a Commendation *for updating and maintaining the Society's website since 2014, thereby enabling the public to discover Peter Francisco and the Society to fulfill its purpose...*

WINNER OF THE "COVID CONTEST"

Mary Ellen Poindexter of Roanoke, VA, selected 6 answers correctly and won 2 years' free membership in the Society. You can see from the activities below that our members remained active in spite of having to isolate and wear masks. Correct answers are as follows:

- 1 C **Alla Pruitt** worked in her flower garden
- 2 J **Jennifer & Connor Wilson** made/donated masks
- 3 G **Sue Terminella** updated genealogies
- 4 F **Libby McLeod** hiked and cooked family recipes
- 5 A **Betty Thomas, Clarence "Red" & BJ Craig** participated in drive-by parades
- 6 E **Bill Wilson** *zoomed* Bible Fellowship Classes
- 7 I **Camryn Mwalwanda** sang at a retirement home
- 8 B **Kyan Mwalwanda** attended *virtual* Vacation Bible School
- 9 H **Edith Francisco Buckley** *zoomed* her 95th birthday celebration
- 10 D **Linda McLeod** "brushed up" on her painting skills

LUSO: The Series

Update: Creative Artists Agency (CAA), which represents many A-listers in the entertainment business, is very interested in producing the *LUSO* series. Craig Titley's team will meet with Playtone (Tom Hanks' production company) this month to pursue production options.

FUNDRAISERS Use AmazonSmile

In the fall of 2020, Society members were requested to begin using AmazonSmile *when ordering from Amazon or Amazon Prime*, in order for the Society to receive 0.5% of the cost of qualifying purchases from Amazon. There is no additional charge to you! If you have not already signed up for smile.amazon.com, please do so by following these instructions:

- Sign up for AmazonSmile, by clicking on the Society's link:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7433649>
(Share this link with family and friends to use to increase donations to the Society!)
- 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). Select the Society—it will be stored as your organization of choice.
- ALWAYS USE smile.amazon.com so that your purchases will be counted toward Amazon's donations to the Society.

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 bottom right)
- Scroll down and select "Settings" then select "Amazon Smile"
- Follow the prompts to enable Smile on your app

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