

*Peter Francisco Society*

# The Virginia Giant

Volume 3

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Issue 5

## **FOLLOWING IN PETER'S FOOTSTEPS...**

As much as we would like to continue *following in Peter's footsteps*, the Executive Board has voted to **CANCEL all meetings in 2022**—Peter Francisco Day on March 15 and the tentative June 10-12 meeting in Buckingham, VA. The Board will determine when to resume “in-person” meetings; *ZOOM* meetings are being considered for the future.

The good news is that the Society will continue to function as usual—offering memberships, fundraisers and scholarships, as well as notifying members of any important upcoming events. See [www.peterfrancisco.org](http://www.peterfrancisco.org) *Current Events* for updates.

## **In Celebration of the**

**50<sup>th</sup> Peter Francisco Day in Virginia  
and the**

**51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Peter Francisco Society**

Please view the enclosed list of highlights  
and visit our website

**[www.peterfrancisco.org](http://www.peterfrancisco.org)**

to learn more about the history of the Society  
and what we have accomplished to fulfill our purpose:

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

~ SCHOLARSHIPS ~  
**Deadline for applying is April 15**

**To All Members:** Please notify family and friends to have any high school seniors graduating in 2022 to apply for our \$500 Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship. Requirements and applications can be found at [www.peterfrancisco.org](http://www.peterfrancisco.org). Committee members are Karen Kardian, Erin Mwalwanda, and Anne Wilson (Chair).

Use the enclosed form to make your tax-deductible donation in order for us to continue awarding two \$500 scholarships. A complete list of donors for 2022 will appear in our September newsletter.

~ FUNDRAISERS ~

**PFS Pins and Membership Certificates**

The *Introductory Offer* for PFS Pins and/or Membership Certificates has received a positive response, especially from D1's—Descendants of Peter and Susannah! Orders for pins will be filled by Caroline Corum; orders for certificates will be filled by Anne Wilson & Erin Mwalwanda. ~*Please place your order on the enclosed form.* ~



Pin & Certificate \$22  
Pin *only* – \$20; Certificate *only* – \$8

**AmazonSmile**

Use AmazonSmile—designate Peter Francisco Society as the organization to receive your automatic donation (at no cost to you). *Details:* [www.peterfrancisco.org](http://www.peterfrancisco.org) *Current News*

**“THE AZORES of PETER FRANCISCO” TOUR**

This tour by Sagres Vacations has been cancelled, once again, because of COVID. Rescheduling will be announced after *LUSO, the Mini-Series* has aired.

~ PETER FRANCISCO SOCIETY IN THE AZORES ~

Our Executive Board is considering a request by Francisco “Frank” Cardosa (our tour guide during the Society’s trip to The Azores in 2015) for starting a “chapter” of our Society in the City of Angra. There is much interest among the people there to meet as a society and to preserve Peter’s legacy. It may be that a “Sister City” relationship could be developed between Angra and Richmond, or Buckingham, Virginia.

### ~ *LUSO, THE MINI-SERIES* ~

Brian Patrick Wade, who has signed to portray Peter Francisco in the series, has joined with Travis Bowman as a co-producer. Brian has been instrumental in seeking talented writers, producers and directors for this production.

In the fall of 2021, an agreement was made with Angel Studios which has been very successful in using social media to build a following for a number of television series, including *The Chosen*, based on the life of Jesus Christ. Someone from every country in the world has viewed at least one episode of *The Chosen*; more than 350 million viewers have downloaded at least one of the episodes. Travis has asked Angel Studios to promote *LUSO* the same way and for us to continue to pray for all the details to come together for this production.

To explain the incredible adventures of bringing this mini-series to life, Travis and Brian will be launching a podcast/Utube Channel called *LUSO the Journey*. Mark your calendars – the first episode will launch March 15 – Peter Francisco Day.

### ~ AMONG OUR MEMBERS ~

**Camryn Mwalwanda** (16) continues with her musical endeavors. In May 2021, she was the first vocalist ever to be selected to the Draylen Mason Fellows Program in Austin, TX. She is using part of her scholarship funds for studio time to record original music and songs. This spring, Camryn will appear as a member of the Adderley School's Advanced Repertory Theatre Ensemble in *A...My Name is Alice* at the Snug Harbor Jazz Club in New Orleans, and as Nancy in *Oliver*; and as Elaine in Summit Christian Academy's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Camryn is the daughter of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Erin Mwalwanda.

**Steven Pruitt** of Alexandria, VA, has more than likely corrected the Wikipedia information you may have used. Steven has made more than four million edits and was recognized by *Time Magazine* in 2017 as one of the most influential people on the internet. Recently, he was highlighted in the November 2021 Issue of *Northern Virginia Magazine*. Steven is the son of Society members Don and Alla Pruitt.

### ~ *In Memoriam* ~

*Sincere condolences are extended to the families of the following members:*

**Clarence E. "Red" Craig** of Moneta, VA, a descendant of Peter and Susannah, passed away on February 3, 2022. Red's wife BJ; his sisters, Betty Thomas and Anne Wilson; and other family members are also members of the Society.

**Raymond Kesler** of Roanoke, VA, passed away on November 1, 2021. He and his *late* wife Jonell Glenn Kesler, a descendant of Peter and Susannah, were both members of the Society.

## Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Peter Francisco Day in Virginia

The 15<sup>th</sup> of March is known as Peter Francisco Day due to the role Peter played in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, N.C., which occurred on March 15, 1781. Peter was instrumental in this battle, where he slew 11 of the British forces and was subsequently left for dead after the battle.

Peter Francisco Day has been established in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. On February 17, 1971, Society members were present when Governor Linwood Holton signed the proclamation establishing Peter Francisco Day on May 15 as an annual celebration in the Commonwealth of Virginia (Peter's adopted state).

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### Highlights in Celebration of the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Peter Francisco Society

(For more details, see [www.peterfrancisco.org](http://www.peterfrancisco.org), History of the Society)

**July 25, 1971:** First meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Quintus Massie, in Louisa County, VA  
**1970's:** Locust Grove placed on the National Register of Historic Places and Registry of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission; Passage of Resolution 200 in VA, declaring March 15 of each year to be Peter Francisco Day; Grant & matching funds received for Locust Grove restoration

**2000's:** September 2000 – 1st edition of bi-annual newsletter, *The Virginia Giant*; Society email [peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com](mailto:peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com); Website [www.peterfrancisco.org](http://www.peterfrancisco.org);

-New Fundraisers – Limited-edition Christmas Ornaments (2000-2020); Magnets (2007-2018);

Locust Grove Notecards & Peter Francisco postcards (ongoing)

-Lifetime Memberships presented to J. Quintus Massie and Edith F. Buckley

-Genealogy of Peter Francisco and Susannah Anderson completed by Don and Alla Pruitt

-Portuguese Continental Union bestowed Peter Francisco Awards to Society and Edith F. Buckley

-Memorial Lifetime Membership in Perpetuity bestowed upon Peter Francisco by the Richmond Randolph Lodge of the Freemasons, Richmond, VA

-Library of Virginia procured as a permanent home for the Society's archives

-Presented 1<sup>st</sup> Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship (2013 - )

-Dedicated Peter Francisco Library at Maysville Manor B&B, Buckingham, VA

-250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peter Francisco's arrival in the New World

-Genealogy of Peter Francisco and Catherine Fauntleroy Brooke completed by Sue Terminella

**June 20-25, 2015:** Society trip to The Azores; *President Emerita* title bestowed upon Edith Buckley

-LUSO - Travis Bowman began assembling production crew

-Combined Annual Business Meetings with Celebration of Peter Francisco Day in VA in March

-New website address: [www.peterfrancisco.org](http://www.peterfrancisco.org); presented Libby McLeod with a Resolution in recognition for her service as President of the Society from 2011 thru 2018

-Name changed to **Peter Francisco Society**; new email [peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com](mailto:peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com)

**September 21, 2019** - Dedication of Francisco Landing in Hopewell, VA

-500+ page Ancestry of Peter Francisco, compiled by Gail Tonkens, and Dr. Joao Ventura;

-updated Genealogies of Peter Francisco and his first and second wives posted by Sue Terminella

-**March 2021** – Virtual Tour in celebration of Peter Francisco Day

-**COVID Cancellations:** **March 2020, 2021 and 2022** - Business Meetings & PF Day

**June 2022** – Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Peter Francisco Day in VA and the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Peter Francisco Society

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## **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**