

The Virginia Giant

Newsletter of the Peter Francisco Society

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Issue 6

WHEN “POSITIVE RESULTS” CAN BE “GOOD NEWS”

It may be difficult to believe that “Positive Results” have occurred in our lives from 2020-2022 in spite of COVID; yet, during the last three years, we found more *family time* and reconnected with friends and family via emails, phone calls, and texts. Meetings were held via *zoom, facetime, or live-streaming*. Often, participation was higher than when meeting in person.

Today, much of Society business and all scholarship applications are handled via email, while Executive Board meetings are held via phone conferences. In spite of COVID and not being able to hold meetings in person, the Society has maintained an active membership, held successful fundraisers, and presented annual Scholarships. We continue to have “Positive Results” in our efforts to honor Peter Francisco and promote the Society!

The Peter Francisco Society will exist as long as our members share Peter’s story and educate their families and others about his role in the American Revolutionary War.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

I have decided to resign as President of the Society. I’m glad to have been a part of honoring and carrying on the work to keep Peter Francisco’s contributions alive. The highlight of my position was dedicating Peter Francisco Landing. The challenges of Google Suite remain...I’m confident the Board will make that important. I have enjoyed my time and look forward to seeing the Society continue to grow. Regards, Linda

The Society reluctantly accepts the resignation of President Linda McLeod who has served faithfully and provided us with excellent leadership since 2019. The Executive Board is grateful for her commitment, enthusiasm and competence while serving as President and, on behalf of the membership, has presented her with a commendation for her outstanding service.

~ As Linda steps down, it is time for other members to step up. ~

Election of Officers will be held at our meeting on March 12, 2023

Old Hall of Delegates, Capitol Building, Richmond, Virginia

Mark your calendar and plan to attend—we need a quorum of 20 members for elections.

Nominees are: President/Treasurer – *Ed Bowman**

1st Vice President – *Erin Mwalwanda*

*currently serving as President pro tem

Recording Secretary – *Caroline Corum*

2nd Vice President – *Edith Buckley*

To make nominations, participate on the Board, or help plan events, please contact
peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com

LUSO The Series

LUSO means “relating to Portugal or the Portuguese culture,” and is, therefore, a very appropriate name for the television series about the extraordinary life of Peter Francisco.

The LUSO Series has had some exciting new developments in 2022. Travis Bowman and Brian Patrick Wade launched their film company called *Into The Storm Productions, LLC*, and have hired Craig Titley to write and David Henrie to direct LUSO. In August, a short “proof of concept” film, which will be available on [Angel.com](https://www.angel.com) early in 2023, was produced for their distributor, Angel Studios. The director is currently editing that 12-minute film; then he and Travis will review the “picture lock.” The first 3 of 9 episodes will be filmed next year.



Brian Patrick Wade as Peter Francisco in the “proof of concept” film – August 2022

Other good news is that **YOU** will have an opportunity to be an owner of *LUSO the Series* when Angel Studios launches it on Crowdfunding in 2023! For updates, tune into Travis and Brian’s podcast “*Luso the Journey*” on Spotify or YouTube.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

- President Linda McLeod met with Board Members Erin Mwalwanda and Anne Wilson, as well as several other Society members in Williamsburg, VA, on June 24, to discuss future plans for the Society.

Provide a positive influence on your family -- instill a love of history and ancestry...

Ida Vandalia Shorter Craig joined the Society in 1975. Ida’s daughters, Betty Thomas and Anne Wilson, and her son, Clarence “Red” Craig, also became members of the Society. Other family members who have joined are: Mary Ellen Poindexter; Bill, Eric, Jennifer, Connor and Kaiden Wilson; BJ Craig; and Erin, Christopher, Camryn and Kyan Mwalwanda. Fourteen additional members joined because of one member’s desire to honor those who came before her!

A legacy is not what you leave behind, but what you leave in others.

Pastor Frank English, New Life Christian Fellowship, Salem, VA, April 2022

A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants.

British historian, Lord Macaulay (1800-1859)

Take pride in your ancestry and share it with your own descendants!

~ Give memberships as gifts or encourage family members to join the Society. ~

In Memoriam...

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Betty Craig Thomas of Roanoke, VA, who passed away on April 11, 2022. She was a D1 who began attending Society meetings in the 1970’s with her mother Ida Shorter Craig. Betty’s daughter, Mary Ellen Carr Poindexter, is a member of the Society who serves on the Fundraising Committee.

PETER FRANCISCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship was initiated by past president Libby McLeod in 2013—at which time members voted unanimously to support the scholarships with individual donations. Two \$500 scholarships have been presented most years; to generate more interest among possible applicants, one \$1,000 Scholarship will be presented beginning in 2023.

Use the enclosed form to make your donation to the 2023 Scholarship Fund.

Frequently asked questions about our Scholarships:

- *Who are the current committee members?* Anne Wilson, Chair; Karen Kardian; Erin Mwalwanda
- *How is the Scholarship funded?* Donations from Society members and General Fund
- *How is the Scholarship information shared?* Chair provides high schools (mainly in VA) with scholarship information; Society website and newsletters; and by members like you!
- *How are winners determined?* The same evaluation form and criteria are used for each applicant.

If you would like more information about our Scholarship, visit the Society’s website www.peterfrancisco.org or contact Anne Wilson at peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com.

2022 Donors

Donations: *Revolutionary \$200; Patriot \$100; Cavalry \$75; Infantry \$50; Militia \$25; Colonial \$10*

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Honor of</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>
<i>Revolutionary</i>	<i>Gail Tonkens</i>	<i>Edith Buckley</i>	<i>Ross Tonkens</i>
<i>Patriot</i>	<i>Sue & Francis Terminella</i>		<i>Helen Winston Edwards</i>
	<i>Manuel & Maria Fernandes</i>	<i>Edith Buckley</i>	
<i>Infantry</i>	<i>Elizabeth C. Finley</i>		<i>Glenna Corum</i>
	<i>Anne Linares</i>		<i>Juan Linares; Barbara Taggart</i>
	<i>Anne & Bill Wilson</i>		<i>Ida Shorter Craig</i>
<i>Militia</i>	<i>Zady Edwards Carlton</i>		<i>E. C. “Bossman” Edwards & Helen Winston Edwards</i>
<i>Colonial</i>	<i>William Brown</i>	<i>Mary Emma Goode Newman</i>	<i>Mary Caroline Newman Brown</i>

2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We are pleased to announce our scholarship winners for 2022: Caroline L. Nguyen and Natasha E. D’Cunha. Coincidentally, both recipients are graduates of John Randolph Tucker High School in Richmond, VA, and are attending the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. President Linda McLeod presented a Certificate of Scholarship to each winner at the awards assembly at John Randolph Tucker High School held on June 2, 2022.



Caroline is a member of the National Honor Society and the Science Honor Society. Her many awards include the Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Key. She is an accomplished pianist and teaches ESL. She is majoring in Chemistry at UVA.



Natasha is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Honor Societies for Spanish, Math and Science. She participated in cross country and track, and volunteers in local ministries. She is majoring in Chemical Engineering at UVA.

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 *pro tem* ~ Ed Bowman

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