

The Virginia Giant

Newsletter of the Peter Francisco Society

Volume 3

September 2023

Issue 8

Walking in Peter's Footsteps...

When a nation goes down, or a society perishes, one condition may always be found; they forgot where they came from. They lost sight of what had brought them along. Carl Sandburg, American Poet

May we never forget what has brought our country along for almost 250 years...and our Society for more than 50 years. *See Page 2 for highlights of our March 12, 2023 meeting.*

Peter Francisco Society

cordially invites you to attend its Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the

NATIONAL MUSEUM of the UNITED STATES ARMY

Conference Rooms A&B

1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

1-800-506-2672 ~ thenmusa.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

10:00 a.m.

RESERVATIONS are to be made with the Society in February 2024:

- ~ For admittance to the Museum – a list of all attendees is required ~
- ~ Meeting & Lunch ~ *Space is limited to 40* ~ Details will be in our February newsletter ~



This We'll Defend
U.S. Army Motto

Tentative Plans

- ~Meet and Mingle
- ~Business Meeting
- ~Peter's contributions to the American Revolution
- ~Complimentary lunch
- ~Guided tour of the museum,
including a display in Peter's honor
- ~Walking the "Path of Remembrance"
- ~"On your own" – You may want to include
a visit to Mount Vernon which is less than
2 miles from the Museum

MARCH 12th MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Remembrance ~ Wreath-laying ceremony and spreading of Edith Buckley's ashes at the gravesite of Peter Francisco; Tributes to Edith Buckley; Commendation to Linda McLeod; Celebration of the 51st Peter Francisco Day and the 52nd Anniversary of PFS
Resolve ~ Election of Officers; Business Meeting; Planning for the Future
Repast and Reunion ~ Brunch and Fellowship at The Parterre Restaurant



Past Society Presidents Libby McLeod, Linda McLeod, and John Duke, participate in the presentation of Edith Buckley's membership certificate to Scott Buckley by President Ed Bonman



Presentation of Commendation to past president Linda McLeod by President Ed Bonman



Wreath-laying ceremony at Shockoe Hill Cemetery



Society members enjoy brunch at The Parterre

BROADSIDE the Magazine of the Library of Virginia – 2023 – No. 1

The most unusual painting I have come across is Peter Francisco, a copy of an 1828 portrait by James Westhall Ford by an unknown artist. It is the most unusual item I have encountered in the State Art Collection owing to the stories of Francisco's origins and Revolutionary War service. Of Portuguese descent, Peter Francisco (1760-1831) was found abandoned as a 5-year-old boy on a dock at City Point, Virginia (now Hopewell) in 1765. He worked in indentured servitude until the age of 16 when he enlisted to fight in the Continental Army. His physical stature and feats of bravery during the war earned him nicknames such as the "Hercules of the Revolution" and many commendations, with Peter Francisco Day recognized in five different states today.

Alicia Starliper
Visual Studies Collection Registrar

SOCIETY OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/VACANCIES

~*Congratulations to our Executive Board members who were elected during our March meeting* ~

President & Treasurer – Ed Bowman
Recording Secretary – Caroline Corum

1st VP – Erin Mwalwanda
2nd VP – Will Brown

2024 Committee Members ~ 3 Vacancies ~

Archives

Sue Terminella

Fundraisers

~ 2 Vacancies ~

Caroline Corum, Chair
Anne Wilson
Erin Mwalwanda

Scholarship

~ Chair Vacancy ~

Penny Geiger
Karen Kardian
Erin Mwalwanda

Newsletters/Notifications

Anne Wilson
Erin Mwalwanda

Website Liaison

Anne Wilson

Membership/Genealogy

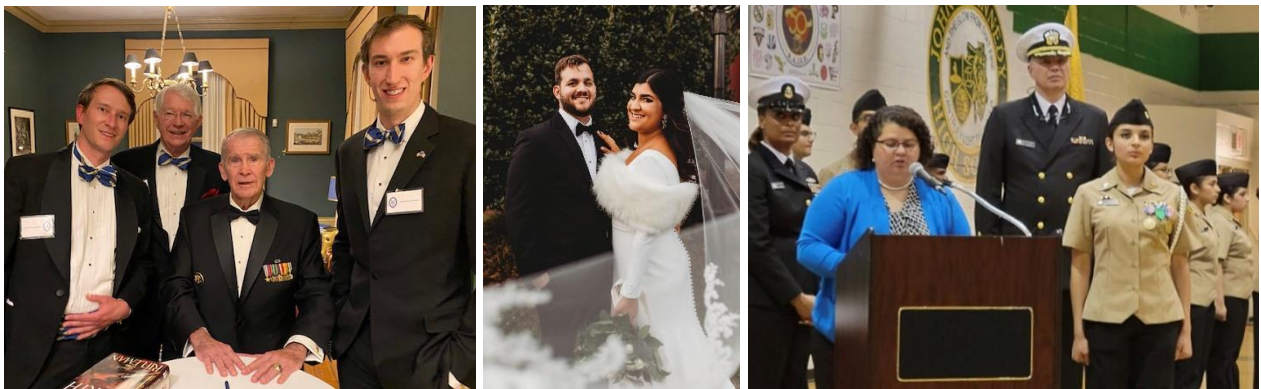
Gail Tonkens
Sue Terminella

Now is the time for **YOU** to serve on a committee to learn more about how the Society functions! Volunteer at PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com.

PFS “CHAPTER” in THE AZORES

The motion for possibly establishing a “chapter” of the Society in The Azores passed unanimously at our March 12 meeting. Frank Cardoso of Terceira Island is continuing to research this matter.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS



February 25, 2023 – Will, Bill and Alex Brown joined Lt. Col Oliver North (USMC Ret.) at the Virginia Society, Sons of the Revolution, 126th annual George Washington Birthday Dinner meeting in Richmond, VA

December 3, 2022 – Congratulations to Stuart and Edie Bethke McCroskey who were married at Ginter Park Methodist Church in Richmond, VA. Stuart is the son of Society members, John and Jane McCroskey.

April 20, 2023 - Libby McLeod, member of the Janet Montgomery Chapter, NSDAR, Montgomery County, MD, presented the DAR Medal for patriotism to Naval JROTC Cadet Doris Ayala

PETER FRANCISCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



May 10, 2023 – Summit Christian Academy Headmaster Colonel Scott MacLeod accompanied Camryn Mwalwanda when she was presented with the Peter Francisco Certificate of Scholarship by Anne Wilson, Scholarship Chair

Congratulations to Camryn E. Mwalwanda of Cedar Park, TX—our third Society member to win our Scholarship! While attending Summit Christian Academy, Camryn was a member of the National Honor Society; an All-A student, including AP, Honors, and dual credit courses; and Salutatorian of her graduating class. She also lettered in cheer and five sports—being named Female Athlete of the Year for 2022-23. In addition, Camryn appeared in annual school dramas and musicals, and as guest soloist at public and private events, and local churches. She was a member of the prestigious Adderley School for nine years, appearing in numerous musicals in Austin, TX; Santa Barbara, CA; and

New Orleans, LA; as part of an ensemble with Andrea Bocelli; with Kenny Loggins and James Cordon at the 20th Anniversary of Adderley; and at various other venues.

Camryn is attending the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, TX, where she is majoring in psychology. Proud parents are Christopher and Erin Mwalwanda.

2023 SCHOLARSHIP – THANK YOU, DONORS!

Herculean \$500+ Revolutionary \$200-499 Patriot \$100-199 Cavalry \$75-99 Infantry \$50-74 Militia \$26-49 Colonial up to \$25

Our \$1,000 Scholarship for 2023 was completely funded by donations given *In Memory of Edith Francisco Buckley, Ida S. Craig, Betty Craig Thomas, Clarence E. Craig, Mary “Dot” Robins Fogg, Helena F. Medeiros, Dr. Ross Tonkens, and Glenna Corum* from the following:

Herculean ~ Albert Costa, Jr Revolutionary ~ Sue Terminella/Charities Aid Foundation America, Gail Tonkens

Patriot ~ Manuel & Maria Fernandes, Jane Schaubach, Anne & Bill Wilson

Infantry ~ Elizabeth Finley, Richard Francisco, Penny Geiger, Anne Linares, Elizabeth McLeod, Jorge S. Medeiros, Don & Alla Pruitt, Jane Schaubach

Militia ~ Stacy & William Purvis Colonial ~ Sue Francisco, Sorina Rosoiu

Please make your donation now for our 2024 Scholarship.

~ In Memoriam ~

Please notify us of deaths of any family or Society members at PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com

~ QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/INFORMATION ~

Please use this **new** email address: Information@peterfrancisco.org

LUSO: The Series - UPDATE

Once the short film of *LUSO* was finished early in 2023, it was previewed by hundreds of patrons in Charlotte, NC; Newark, NJ; Pawtucket, RI; Boston, MA; Nashville, TN; and Tampa, FL. Those in attendance erupted in applause and enthusiastically asked when the series would be available to the public!

In early 2024, Angel Studios will launch *LUSO* on its website to build a following and raise capital for the first three episodes. See www.Angel.com for updates.



This 8½-minute clip of LUSO is everything I ever dreamed of 10 years ago when I started working on bringing Peter Francisco to theaters. Brian Patrick Wade and I are both passionate about showing God's hand of providence in our nation by sharing Peter's story. Travis Bowman

FUNDRAISERS

Membership Certificates and PFS Pins - This fundraiser has proven to be one of our most successful—49 certificates and 50 pins have been sold! Every PFS member is encouraged to purchase a Membership Certificate and PFS Pin to show pride in being a member of the Society and to honor and promote Peter Francisco's legacy.

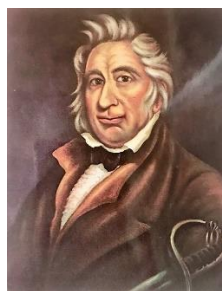
PF Postcards and Locust Grove Notecards are available as well. See attached order form.



Membership Certificate



Pin



Postcard



Locust Grove Notecard

PETER FRANCISCO SOCIETY

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Recipients of “printed” newsletters

PFS hopes to go “paperless” in 2024 and for all newsletters & correspondence to be sent via email. Please send your email address, *or one to which you have access*, to PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com.

* * * * *

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your check made payable to PFS, to:
Ed Bowman, Treasurer PFS, 3715 Belt Blvd., Richmond, VA 23234

~ DUES & SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE \$15 ~

Adults: Pay *only* \$25 to receive your Membership Certificate and PFS Pin—and your dues for one year are included—a \$40 value for only \$25!

Children/Full-time Students thru age 24: Pay *only* \$12 to receive your Membership Certificate and PFS Pin— and your dues for one year are included—a \$27 value for only \$12!

Adults: ___ orders x \$25 = \$ _____

Children/Full-time Students: ___ orders x \$12 = \$ _____

Name on Certificate _____

Membership Designation for Certificate:

___ **D1** (*Descendant of Peter and Susannah*)

___ **D2** (*Descendant of Peter and Catherine*)

___ **D1 Associate** (*Spouse of D1*)

___ **D2 Associate** (*Spouse of D2*)

___ **Friend of the Society**

If paying dues *only* ~ Name(s): _____

No. of Adults ___ x \$15 = \$ _____

No. of Children/Full-time Students ___ x \$2.00 = \$ _____

~ FUNDRAISERS ~

Peter Francisco Postcards - 5 for \$5 - **or** - 15 for *only* \$10

No. Ordered ___ = \$ _____

Locust Grove Notecards - Set of 8 cards & envelopes for *only* \$12

No. Sets ___ x \$12 = \$ _____

~ TAX-EXEMPT DONATIONS ~

2024 Scholarship Fund - *In Memory of* _____ \$ _____

In Honor of _____ \$ _____

TOTAL for Certificates & Pins, Dues, Fundraisers, and Donations = \$ _____

Peter Francisco Society

Purpose: To compile and maintain the documented records of Peter Francisco and his descendants and give him his rightful place in history.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & Treasurer ~ Ed Bowman
1st Vice President ~ Erin Mwalwanda
2nd Vice President ~ Will Brown
Recording Secretary ~ Caroline Corum
Historical Advisor ~ Gail Tonkens

www.peterfrancisco.org

Information@peterfrancisco.org

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