

The Virginia Giant

Newsletter of the Peter Francisco Society

Volume 3

September 2024

Issue 10

WALKING IN PETER'S FOOTSTEPS...

Society members who attended our March meeting at the National Museum of the U.S. Army may have felt like they actually were walking in Peter's footsteps as they saw the American Revolution unfold before them and observed the Peter Francisco display. The Path of Remembrance, including Peter's paving brick (#85) placed by our Society, reminded them of ancestors and family members who have been a part of the U.S. Army since its beginning in 1775.

HIGHLIGHTS of MEETING - SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024 National Museum of the United States Army – Ft Belvoir, VA

Attendees enjoyed a time of *meet-and-greet* and shared memorabilia with one another. President Ed Bowman displayed his recent purchase of the pamphlet *Peter Francisco. The Samson of the Western Hemisphere* by John R. Chapin, published in 1856; and Scott Buckley shared a portrait of Peter Francisco (painted by his *late* mother Edith Buckley). There was discussion about finding a permanent home for the portrait and “growing” our membership. Members then enjoyed lunch together and toured the Museum.



Kaleigh, Alex & (2-month old) Harrison Brown, Scott Buckley,
Bill & Suzanne Brown, Sorina Rosiou, Will Brown, Libby McLeod, Patrick Paul,
Ed Bowman, David Steward, Caroline Corum, Francis & Sue Terminella,

~ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ~

Sunday, March 16, 2025 - Peter Francisco Society Meeting

Virginia Museum of History and Culture
Richmond, Virginia

~ Meeting ~ Lunch ~ Tour of Museum ~ Peter Francisco display

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

February 9, 2024 - **Bill and Suzanne Brown** attended the grave marking and commemoration ceremony by the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution held in Shockoe Hill Cemetery. Peter Francisco's name is among those included on the monument which was erected in 2021 by VASAR.

April/May - **Camryn Mwalwanda**, our 2023 Scholarship winner, was named to the Provost's Honor Roll at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, TX. Continuing with her love of musical theatre, she appeared in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at UMHB.



Connor Wilson

May 10 – **Connor J. Wilson** graduated from the University of CO, Colorado Springs, with a degree in Computer Science, and was also presented with the school's Leadership Award. He is presently an intern in the Computer Science Department and began his Master's program this fall at UCO.

May 30 – A celebration of the life and times of **Edith Francisco Buckley** (1925-2022), founding member of the Society, was held at Little River United Church of Christ, Annandale, VA. Edith's many honors include the Peter Francisco Award from the Portuguese Continental Union, the Community Service Award from DAR Providence Chapter, and President Emerita status from the Society. Her presence, wisdom and leadership are greatly missed by Society officers and members.

June 4 - **John Francisco** and his wife Janet met with President Honoria Leandro and Vice President Cizaltina dSilva of the Parish Council of Porto Judeu, Terceira Island. Elizabeth Soares, a Century 21 realtor in Angra de Heroismo who is also a descendant of the Franciscos is looking for more information about the property deed to Peter's family home in Porto Judeu. Elizabeth's mother once lived in the home and may be able to provide even more information about the property. John has provided a framed copy of the U.S. Postage Stamp of Peter Francisco (1975) which is now displayed in the reception area of the Parish Council Office.



Welcome, New Member ~ David Steward of Alexandria, VA

PETER FRANCISCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



After an extensive evaluation process of 25 outstanding applicants, our Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the recipient of our 2024 Scholarship for \$1,000 is **Rosie L. Grubbs**, a graduate of Mechanicsville High School, Mechanicsville, VA. Rosie was an exceptional student, a member of the National and Spanish Honor Societies, and participated in competitive dance and cheer. She is majoring in nursing at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

~ Thank you for coming to award me the scholarship! Your gift will help me accomplish my educational goal. Rosie Grubbs ~

Rosie was presented with our Certificate of Scholarship at her high school awards assembly on May 20 by Scholarship Committee Member, Penny Geiger.



Camryn as a gypsy in "Hunchback"

Donations for Scholarships are being accepted now. *See order form for details.*

Herculean\$1,000+ Revolutionary\$200+ Patriot\$100+ Cavalry\$75+ Infantry\$50+ Militia\$25+ Colonial up to\$25

Donations to our Scholarship Fund were made by the following members in 2024:

Donor	<i>In Memory of...</i>	<i>In Honor of her grandchildren</i>
Zady E. Carlton		<i>Aaron Bailey; Bryce, Julian, & Lainey Kate Carlton</i>
John C. Francisco	<i>Edith F. Buckley</i>	
Mary C. Echols	<i>Nannie Robert Francisco Porter</i>	
William Corum	<i>Glenna B. Corum, Rena Barnes, and Henry Baker</i>	
Gail Tonkens	<i>Dr. Ross Tonkens and Edith F. Buckley</i>	
Anne Linares	<i>Shalmir Glenn Grim</i>	

New Scholarship Committee Chairman

Dr. J. Eric Wilson (Lt. Col. USAF *ret.*) has been a member of the Society since 2001 and will chair our Scholarship Committee beginning in 2025. Eric is a native Virginian who served in the U.S. Army in Italy and in the Gulf War. He attended Longwood College and the Medical College of Virginia and holds two doctorates in physical therapy. After working in private practice, Eric enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he created the Fellowship Program for select Air Force physical therapists. He continues to teach this program as a civilian at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He and his wife Dr. Jennifer D. Wilson reside in Colorado Springs, CO with their sons, Connor and Kaiden.



Outgoing Chairman Anne Wilson created our evaluation process which she updated for use in 2025 and future years. We are grateful to Penny Geiger, Karen Kardian and Erin Mwalwanda who continue to serve as members of the Scholarship Committee.

LUSO, THE SERIES

An informational meeting for investors was held June 21, 2024, at the Childress Vineyard in Lexington, NC, which is owned by former NASCAR driver Richard Childress. Among those in attendance were Albert Costa (PFS member/Guest Speaker) and his daughter Jennifer Joss; Haley Dillon (granddaughter-in-law of Richard Childress); Davidjohn Wyatt (of TurningPoint USA; Marketing Director for *LUSO*); Brian Patrick Wade; and Michelle and Travis Bowman.



1-Travis Bowman, Jennifer Joss, Brian Patrick Wade, and Albert Costa at *LUSO* meeting
2-Albert Costa, Davidjohn Wyatt, Jennifer Joss and Travis Bowman at the “Francisco Monument” at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park Battlefield, Guilford, NC.

~ Visit the *LUSO store front* which offers 50+ items and 9 different “collections” ~
shop.luso.tv/collections

SOCIETY BOARD UPDATES

- Libby McLeod and John Cary Francisco have joined the Board which welcomes any Society members who want to help with planning and furthering our purpose to promote Peter Francisco.

- Society members are encouraged to have their family members and friends join the Society or to give membership as a *one-of-a-kind* gift! We need to “increase our reach” to fulfill our purpose.

- The Library of Virginia houses archives of the Society which may be used for research. Notify the Society of any items or papers you donate to the Library for inclusion in our records.

- Historical Advisor Gail Tonkens is awaiting information in regard to having the *Tarleton's Raiders* print of Peter Francisco restored. The print has been in storage at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA, for more than 50 years. Gail also has the genealogy of Peter Francisco and his siblings. If you are interested in a copy, please contact the Society at peterfranciscosociety@gmail.com.



The Board adopted this PFS Logo, designed by Member Sorina Rosiou, to be used on Society merchandise

FUNDRAISERS

~ See Order Form for details ~

Membership Certificates and PFS pins – Take advantage of the Special Offer which continues through 2024.

Locust Grove Notecards – Order now – *Limited supply available*

PF postcards



Member Certificate



PFS Pin



Locust Grove Notecard



PF Postcard

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

PETER FRANCISCO SOCIETY

~ NO MORE PRINTED NEWSLETTERS ~

Beginning in 2025, all PFS newsletters and correspondence will be sent via email.

If you do **not** have an email address, ask a family member or friend if you may receive emails at their email address; then have them email us at **PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com** to let us know where to send your newsletters. Thank you for your assistance.

**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/MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES/PFS PINS ~
Get yours now! Special Offer of \$15 Savings ends 12/31/2024

Adult: **Only \$25** (a \$40 Value) – Member Certificate, PFS Pin & Dues for one year

Child/Full-time Student: **Only \$12** (a \$27 value) – Member Certificate, PFS Pin & Dues for one year

Adult name: _____ orders x \$25 = \$ _____

Child/Full-time Student name: _____ orders x \$12 = \$ _____

Membership Designation for Certificate *(Please check your affiliation)*

☐ 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 ~

#Adults _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

#Children/Full-time Students _____ x \$2.00 = \$ _____

~ FUNDRAISERS ~

Locust Grove Notecards - Set of 8 cards & envelopes for only \$15 # Sets _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Peter Francisco Postcards - 5 for \$5 - **or** - 15 for only \$10 # Ordered _____ = \$ _____

~ TAX-EXEMPT DONATIONS ~ SCHOLARSHIP FUND ~

In Memory of _____ \$ _____

In Honor of _____ \$ _____

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