

The Virginia Giant

Newsletter of the Peter Francisco Society

Volume 3

February 2025

Issue 11

Walking in Peter's Footsteps...

When the Society meets at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, members will be walking in a city very familiar to Peter Francisco. Peter often visited Richmond and, of course, lived there when he served as Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Delegates. He was at St Johns Church in 1775 when Patrick Henry gave his famous "give me liberty or give me death" speech; saved many lives during the fire at the Richmond Theatre in 1811; was living in the Shockoe area when he passed away in 1831; and, of course, is buried in Shockoe Hill Cemetery. Remember the impact Peter had on Virginia, Colonial and American history! As we lead up to our nation's Semiquincentennial in 2026, the VMHC is offering many displays, podcasts, lectures and other events to commemorate the role Virginia played in the American Revolution. Take advantage of these historical presentations to walk in the footsteps of Peter and other patriots!

You are cordially invited to attend the

53rd Celebration

of

Peter Francisco Day in Virginia

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Virginia Museum of History and Culture - Lacy Room



Corner of Kensington Ave and N Arthur Ashe Blvd, Richmond, Virginia

~ Parking is behind the VMHC ~

Visit | Virginia Museum of History & Culture

- 10:00 am Gathering and Fellowship
- 11:00 am Meeting
- 12:00 noon Lunch – Purchase 'on your own' from the Café or bring your own and Dine in the Lacy Room
- 1:00 pm Movie "Imagine Virginia" and Museum Tour

~ REGISTER for the MEETING by MARCH 14 ~

RSVP to Will Brown at willbrown714@gmail.com

to receive discounted Admission & Parking paid for by the Society

SOCIETY BOARD UPDATES

~ The Board has discontinued DUES after 2025! ~

Our reason...to expand the Society's reach in spreading the word about Peter Francisco!
Rather than paying annual dues, membership will simply be determined by your interest in being a part of the Society and helping to fulfill the Society's purpose "*to compile and maintain the documented records of Peter Francisco and his descendants and give him his rightful place in history.*"

We need your help to effect this change.

Please send the names of family and friends, along with their email addresses, to Sue Terminella, Membership Chair, at sue.terminella@gmail.com and we will invite them to join the Society.

If you know of any American Revolution or reenactor organizations, please contact 2nd Vice President Will Brown at willbrown714@gmail.com.

~ ~ ~

Restoration Donations



Our Historical Advisor Gail Tonkens is working with Karie Diethorn, Supervisory Museum Curator, Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, PA, to have the 1814 print of *Peter Francisco and Tarleton's Raiders*, which has been out of circulation for more than fifty years, restored by Torner Conservation. The Board has voted unanimously to have donations to the Society pay for the restoration which will cost \$4,000; when restored, the print will, once again, be available for display in a prominent museum.

In the past, donations by members have funded two framed prints of Peter Francisco, his Lifetime Membership in the Richmond Chapter Masonic Lodge, two paving bricks at the Custom House, Yorktown, VA, and a brick on the Path of Remembrance at the National Museum of the U.S. Army.

Peter Francisco Ancestral Family Tree

Gail Tonkens' book will be available for viewing at our March meeting. This extensive work-in-progress includes Peter's descent from royalty and many historical figures.

PETER FRANCISCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

To All Members: Please promote our \$1,000 Scholarship to family and friends.

Information can be found at www.peterfrancisco.org. **Deadline to apply is April 15, 2025.**

Our new Scholarship Chairman Eric Wilson has already provided school guidance counselors in Virginia and other states with our scholarship information. Once applications are received, they will be evaluated by Eric and committee members Penny Geiger, Karen Kardian, and Erin Mwalwanda.

LUSO, The Series

The goal of \$1.85 million for funding the pilot and the other eight episodes of ***LUSO*** is close to being raised. Another \$250,000 is needed so that filming can begin in the fall of 2025.

For more information about this investment offering, please contact Travis Bowman at travis@travisbowman.com.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS



William Melville Brown IV and **Sorina Maria Rosoiu** were married September 28, 2024, at the Tuckahoe Woman's Club, Richmond, VA. **Sorina** was born in Bucharest, Romania, and has been a member of the Society for two years. She is a graphic artist who designed the Society's new logo. **Will** is the Society's 2nd Vice President. The newlyweds reside in Richmond with their cockapoo, *Mr. Brown*.

In December 2024, **Travis Bowman** presented a signed copy of his book **LUSO** to North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul M. Newby. Their meeting included discussion of our nation's upcoming 250th

Anniversary in 2026 and the importance of teaching the next generation about God's providence for our country...especially through a *giant hero*—*Peter Francisco*.



Welcome, New Member

Janet Law of Bainbridge Island, WA was a long-time friend of the *late* Robert Brooke Albertson, III (*See In Memoriam below*) who left the following family heirlooms to her: a small, oval portrait of Peter Francisco; coats-of-arms of the Brooke and Albertson families; two proclamations of appointment by George Washington; and a grandfather clock. Our Board is working with Janet to rehome these items to a museum.

In Memoriam...

Belated sympathy is extended to Janet Law, other friends and the family of **Robert Brooke Albertson, III** of Bainbridge Island, WA, who passed away on July 22, 2023. Most of Brooke's extended family live in Virginia or North Carolina.

Condolences are extended to the family of **Charles "Chuck" Peter Francisco, Jr** of Richmond, VA, who passed away on January 15, 2025. Like many of his family members, Chuck was a longstanding member of the Society and proudly displayed his PFS Membership Certificate even while hospitalized.

Belated condolences are extended to family and friends of **Harold R. Spainhour** of Charlottesville, VA, Friend of the Society, who passed away on March 13, 2024.

"LAFAYETTE RETURNS TO WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA"

Two hundred years ago, the Marquis de Lafayette, French hero of the American Revolution, visited Williamsburg as part of a 13-month tour of the United States to celebrate the nation's 50th anniversary. On Sunday, October 20, 2024, Colonial Williamsburg honored the "Nation's Guest" with tributes from the 18th, 19th, and 21st Centuries.

During his tour in 2024, the Marquis (portrayed by Colonial Williamsburg Interpreter Mark Schneider) made other stops which included New York City, Philadelphia, Mount Vernon, Yorktown, and Charlottesville. His remaining stops in 2025 will be in Fayetteville, NC (March 4); New Orleans, LA (March 11); St. Louis, MO (April 29); and Washington, D.C. (September 8).

“Was Peter with Lafayette in Williamsburg in October 1824?”

Preparing for the SDPF meeting in Williamsburg in October 2016, I was asked to find out if Peter actually came to that town with Lafayette in October 1824, during the marquis' ceremonial visit to the United States. I contacted some fifteen scholarly or historical societies in searching this information; the following reports are in accounts provided me by The Society of the Cincinnati.

In preparing to honor Lafayette during his visit to Virginia in 1824, the Governor invited Peter, along with many other notables, to join the official suite escorting the marquis. We know from Dr. Benjamin Francisco's biography of his father that Peter rode on horseback to Yorktown to be at the anniversary ceremonies. There is an eyewitness account of “an old soldier” being warmly greeted by Lafayette at Yorktown and telling him that “I fought alongside DeKalb.” This almost certainly was Peter, who fought – and rescued a cannon -- at Camden where DeKalb was in command. Also, Dr. Ben's description of his own and his siblings' introduction to Lafayette by his father proves that Peter was with the marquis in Petersburg when that meeting occurred. Finally, there is a note in a news report that Peter was in Richmond at the place assigned to him during ceremonies there.

Unfortunately, none of this is direct proof that Peter accompanied Lafayette to Williamsburg. But given the facts of the Governor's invitation and Dr. Ben's biography, I am almost completely confident in stating that Peter was, indeed, at Williamsburg with Lafayette in October 1824.

~Don Pruitt, PFS Member~



The Marquis de Lafayette



Colonial Williamsburg
interpreter Mark Schneider,
as the Marquis

FUNDRAISERS

- NEW – PFS LOGO FLAT CARDS –

Share our new logo - send a card to friends and family



Member Certificate



PFS Pin



Locust Grove Notecard



PF Postcard

~ Please use the attached form to make donations and order fundraisers. ~

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

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

*~ GIFT-GIVING MADE EASY ~ Purchase these unique gifts for family and friends ~
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DUES for 2025

\$15 for Adults; \$2 for Children and Full-time Students through age 24

Name: _____ Adult - \$15 x _____ \$ _____
Name: _____ Child/Full-time Student - \$2 x _____ \$ _____

FUNDRAISERS

*****NEW*** - PFS Logo Flat Cards – Set of 8 w/envelopes.....\$14.00 x _____ \$ _____**
Locust Grove Note Cards – Set of 8 w/envelopes.....\$14.00 x _____ \$ _____
PF Postcards – 5 for \$5 - or - 15 for only \$10.....\$ _____ x _____ \$ _____

**** SPECIAL ** Membership Certificate & PFS Pin – only \$20**

Membership Certificate & PFS Pin \$20 x _____ \$ _____

Name and Member Designation for Certificate: _____
____ D1 (Descendant of Peter & Susannah) ____ D2 (Descendant of Peter & Catherine)
____ D1 Associate (Spouse of D1) ____ D2 Associate (Spouse of D2)
____ Friend of the Society

Membership Certificate only.....\$12 x _____ \$ _____

PFS Pin only\$12 x _____ \$ _____

TAX-EXEMPT DONATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of _____ \$ _____
In Honor of _____ \$ _____

RESTORATION of Tarlton's Raiders PRINT..... \$ _____

TOTAL for DUES, FUNDRAISERS and DONATIONS.....