

The Virginia Giant

Newsletter of the Peter Francisco Society

Volume 3

September 2025

Issue 12

WALKING IN PETER'S FOOTSTEPS...

Once again, we will be "walking in Peter's footsteps" as we meet at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park and stroll the grounds where Peter and many others fought so bravely and where Peter was wounded and left for dead. Our next meeting is one you won't want to miss—bring your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of the USA!

~ COMING IN 2026 ~

HAPPY 250TH ANNIVERSARY, AMERICA!

**Guilford Courthouse National Military Park; Travis Bowman, producer of *LUSO*;
and the Peter Francisco Society are coordinating plans to celebrate the**

**250th Anniversary of the United States of America
and the**

**245th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse
and to**

Honor Peter Francisco, American Revolutionary War Hero

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THIS SPECIAL WEEKEND!



March 13-15, 2026

**Plan to attend all of the Events at
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, Greensboro, NC**

**Special Ceremony honoring Peter Francisco
will be held at the Francisco Monument
Saturday, March 14**

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**RSVP – Please complete the attached form
or email PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com**

**Details, including hotel accommodations and schedule of events
will be in our February 2026 Newsletter and on www.peterfrancisco.org**

HIGHLIGHTS of the SOCIETY MEETING MARCH 15, 2025

A total of twenty-three members and guests attended our meeting at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond, VA, in celebration of the 53rd Peter Francisco Day in VA and the Society's 52nd anniversary. Highlights of the business meeting included adoption of a change to our by-laws in which collection of dues was discontinued beginning in October 2025; and the reading of the Honor to the Dead and a Proclamation naming March 15 Peter Francisco Day in VA from Governor Glenn Youngkin. Interviews of members were held by special guests Greg McQuade (Producer, WTVR, CBS Channel 6) and Cole Pearson (photographer). *See article below.* Lunch and a tour of the museum followed the business meeting.



The once brightly colored, semi-plaid brown woven waistcoat made by Peter's second wife Catherine Brooke Francisco at Locust Grove measures 55 inches around the chest, 58 inches around the waist, and 34 inches around the arms. The front of the garment is made of a dark brown and grayish blue plaid cotton twill and has two pockets with small plain metal disc buttons and a round collar; the back is made of light brown cotton twill and has a tie and buckle.

PETER FRANCISCO STORY - WTVR, CHANNEL 6, RICHMOND, VA – APRIL 2025

It was a pleasure producing this story on Virginia's Giant of the Revolution. I had the opportunity to travel to The Azores...and even found a restaurant which served Peter Francisco beer! I donated an empty beer bottle and a bag of black sand from The Azores to be archived at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Greg McQuade

EARLY CELEBRATION of the 250TH ANNIVERSARY of the U.S.A.



Bill and Anne Wilson attended an early "kick-off" for America's 250th Anniversary held by the Williamson Museum, Georgetown, TX, on Friday, April 18. As part of the museum's "Two Lights for Tomorrow" emphasis, "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was read by Jeremy Harper, Educational Programs and Outreach Coordinator, on the steps of the Georgetown Courthouse, while two courthouse lights were illuminated in recognition of the two lanterns used to alert Revere.

Share your Semiquincentennial activities at PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com.

NO DUES – OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Beginning in 2026, rather than payment of annual dues, membership will simply be determined by one's 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.*"

By discontinuing payment of dues, the Board believes we may be able to reach more family members and interested parties. The Society will still depend upon members to support fundraisers and make donations *voluntarily* to the Scholarship Fund and other special projects.

What's YOUR part in this "No Dues" policy?

- Complete the membership form on our website www.peterfrancisco.org
- Send the names, email addresses, addresses and phone numbers of other family members or friends who may be interested in becoming part of the Society to Membership Chair Sue Terminella at sue.terminella@gmail.com.
- If you know members of the Sons of the American Revolution, re-enactor groups, etc., please contact 2nd VP Will Brown at willbrown714@gmail.com.

PETER FRANCISCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to **Emma Linh Sicat** of Glen Allen High School, Glen Allen, VA, winner of our 2025 Scholarship! In addition to excelling in academics, Emma was a Girl Scout and was enrolled in the Center for Education & Human Development where she created and promoted an afterschool enrichment program for elementary students. She was also a member of the National, Spanish, Math and Social Studies Honor Societies and served on the Student Council. When it came to soccer, Emma did it all—she was a player, coach, counselor and referee! She is attending Williams College in Williamstown, MA, where she is majoring in Economics with a concentration in leadership studies.

This year our Scholarship Chairman Eric Wilson and Committee members Penny Geiger, Karen Kardian, and Erin Mwalwanda used a new spreadsheet for evaluating applicants which was created by Erin Mwalwanda and Anne Wilson. In Honor of the 250th Anniversary of the USA, a new essay topic for applicants will be announced in 2026.

Recent donors to our Scholarship Fund are Bill Brown – *In memory of Mary Karolyn Neumann Brown*; Anne Linares – *In memory of Barbara Taggart*; and Michael Francisco – *In memory of Edith F. Buckley*.

***LUSO*, The Series**

Society members are requested to watch the short ***LUSO Film*** on www.LUSO.tv and then "pay it forward" by sharing it with their family and friends via email, text or social media. Let's do our part to keep the movement going for ***LUSO*** to become a television series!

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S ONE-MAN ARMY: The LIFE, LEGEND and BATTLES of PETER FRANCISCO

This book by John T. Palmer (Rear Admiral U.S. Navy, *Retired*) offers a unique perspective of a former member of the military and gives interesting details about the daily life of a soldier in the American Revolution. *Release will be in April 2026.*

AMONG OUR MEMBERS



From left: Jennifer, Connor, Kaiden and Eric Wilson celebrate Connor and Kaiden's graduations. Connor received his Master's Degree in Computer Science from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and Kaiden graduated with a double major in psychology and biology from Western Colorado University in Gunnison, CO



Ed Bowman and his wife Lori enjoyed the view of Mount Pico while hiking Sao Jorge in The Azores in 2025.



Nancy Rodrigues (former Virginia Secretary of Administration) graciously provided the Society with this photo of the groundbreaking ceremony of the Peter Francisco Monument in Newark, NJ, on April 24, 1976, in which Nancy's mother Elvira Rodrigues is holding the ceremonial shovel.

Welcome, New Members...

To increase the Society's reach, Society members have provided the names of family members and friends for our mailings. Do you have additions? If so, email their information to sue.terminella@gmail.com. We welcome each of you and hope you enjoy being part of the Society, learning more about Peter Francisco, and participating in meetings and other activities.

Special welcome is extended to our youngest member, **Harrison Gregory Brown**, one-year old son of Alex & Kaleigh Brown of Arlington, VA, and grandson of Bill & Suzanne Brown of Richmond, VA.

In Memoriam... Our sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of...

Catherine Glenn Brown of Salem, VA, who passed away on April 21. Catherine had many family members, including her late mother Evelyn Shorter Glenn, who had been members of the Society since its founding. She is survived by her three sons David, Stephen and Jeffrey and other family members.

Ronald Geiger of Tappahannock, VA, who passed away Friday, April 25. Ron was a faithful Friend of the Society and husband of long-time member Penny Geiger. Ron and Penny attended many Society meetings, including the March 16, 2025, meeting at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond, VA.

Rebeca "Becky" Francisco Duke of Louisa, VA, who passed away on May 28. Becky was a faithful member of the Society who is survived by her three sons, Goodman (Butch), David and Andrew and their families, and sister Martha Francisco-Beck.



Legacy... Six members of Gail Tonkens' family joined the Society in 2025 – Betsy Muery; Taylor, Preston and Mason Wack; Chase Muery; and Carter Muery (front)

RESTORATION of TARLETON'S RAIDERS' PRINT

This print was donated by John Shock in 1884 to the City of Philadelphia, where it was hung in the East Wing Building of the Independence Hall Museum. In 1950, the City gave control of Independence Hall and its contents to the National Park Service. At that time, the print was placed in storage where it was not cared for properly and fell into some deterioration. The Society had the print restored this past summer.

Our Historical Advisor Gail Tonkens is in the process of locating a museum for its display which must be approved by Independence Hall. Gail used the book "The Road to Yorktown" by John R. Maass to help negotiate a suitable placement. A picture of the print and the Ben Ward Tavern storyline are on Pages 142 and 143. *Maass' book is available in paperback and hard cover on Amazon.*

Restoration costs for the print were completely covered by donations *In Memory of Charles "Chuck" Peter Francisco* from the following: Estate of Charles Peter; John Cary & Janet G. Francisco, plus matching funds from Bristol Myers; Peter L. Francisco; Jon G. & Susana H. Francisco, Susana, Jason, Alex, & Liam Jordan; Gail Tonkens; William R. & Beverly K. Slate; Martha Francisco-Beck; and Sandra Francisco.

PETER FRANCISCO and SOCIETY ARCHIVES

The Society's archives are stored at the Library of Virginia and are available for research. It is our goal to have an up-to-date list of items that were owned by Peter Francisco and/or articles, books, etc. about him cataloged for future use.

Please send photos and brief descriptions or copies of any such items or articles in your possession to PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com.

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Correction: In our February 2007 newsletter article "Was Peter a Mason? We Finally Have the Answer," Peter's Lodge was reported incorrectly. Our Historical Advisor Gail Tonkens' correct research had shown that Peter was a member of Charlotte Lodge #17 at Charlotte Courthouse, then in Wylliesburg, Charlotte County, VA; the lodge became inactive and was declared "extinct" on December 16, 1847; and in 1898, Charlotte Lodge #17 was re-issued, re-named and re-chartered as Sandy Valley Lodge #17, in Grundy, Buchanan County, VA.

Peter Francisco Society

a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt historical organization

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

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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: _____

*** RSVP for Meeting March 13-15, 2026, in Greensboro, NC ***

_____ Check here or email PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com if you tentatively plan to attend the meeting.

*** PFS Logo Polo Shirts ***

_____ Check here or email PeterFranciscoSociety@gmail.com if you are interested in purchasing PFS Polo Shirts.

_____ How many? These polos will be perfect to wear to meetings, to promote Peter Francisco, or to give as gifts.

**If there is enough interest, actual orders will be taken later and delivered in time for our March 2026 meeting!*

FUNDRAISERS

PFS Logo Flat Cards - Set of 8 w/envelopes *only* \$14.00 _____ sets @ \$14 each = \$ _____

Locust Grove Note Cards - Set of 6 w/envelopes *only* \$14.00 _____ sets @ \$14 each = \$ _____

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

Membership Certificate & PFS Pin *Only* \$20 = \$ _____

Name on Certificate: _____

- Please check relationship to Peter Francisco below -

___ 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* is \$12 (indicate name and relationship above) \$ _____

PFS Pin *only* is \$12 \$ _____

TAX-EXEMPT DONATIONS

Scholarship Fund

In Memory of _____ \$ _____

In Honor of _____ \$ _____

General Fund – Since we no longer collect dues, we accept and appreciate all donations.

In Memory of _____ \$ _____

In Honor of _____ \$ _____

9/2025 **TOTAL for FUNDRAISERS and TAX-EXEMPT DONATIONS** \$ _____