

The Virginia Giant

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

Volume 1

February 2004

Issue 8

Update from Iraq ...

Greg Eanes, author of the monograph, "Tarleton's Southside Raid – and Peter Francisco's famous fight," was our guest speaker at Peter Francisco Day 2003. Mr. Eanes holds a B.S. in Occupational Education and an M.A. in Military History. He is a 25-year military veteran, an Air Force Reserve intelligence officer, recipient of the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious wartime achievement during the Persian Gulf War, and is currently serving on active duty in Iraq.

Mr. Eanes has communicated the following:
"We're doing ok and pressing ahead in our mission. I was able to make it home for the holidays and returned to theater on 16 January. ... I don't know that I'll be home in time for Peter Francisco Day but I'll remember him and his services from Baghdad! Regards to all ..."

... from Greg Eanes ...

A more recent communication reads:

"All, one of the most amazing and emotionally moving things happened yesterday (26 January). One of our teams was on the Tigris River somewhere up north, working from a little boat in the water and videotaping some structures when a large crowd appeared on the riverbank above them. At first alarmed, closer inspection revealed the crowd to be all the children from the neighboring school. They had their hands in the air, waving, laughing and generally welcoming our troops to their little part of the world. While our man was video taping the event, the kids began to sing, in English, "The Star Spangled Banner." It was truly a magic moment for those troops that were there. Pass it around and share it with your neighbors. It really happened. Greg"

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

INVITES YOU TO THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF

PETER FRANCISCO DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2004

1:00 – 2:30 P.M.

OLD HALL HOUSE OF DELEGATES

STATE CAPITOL

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

GUEST SPEAKERS: Commonwealth Chapter,
National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution
Nancy Whitley, Regent; Kathie Haas, Past Regent; and
Anne Colvin, Chairman, Peter Francisco Marker

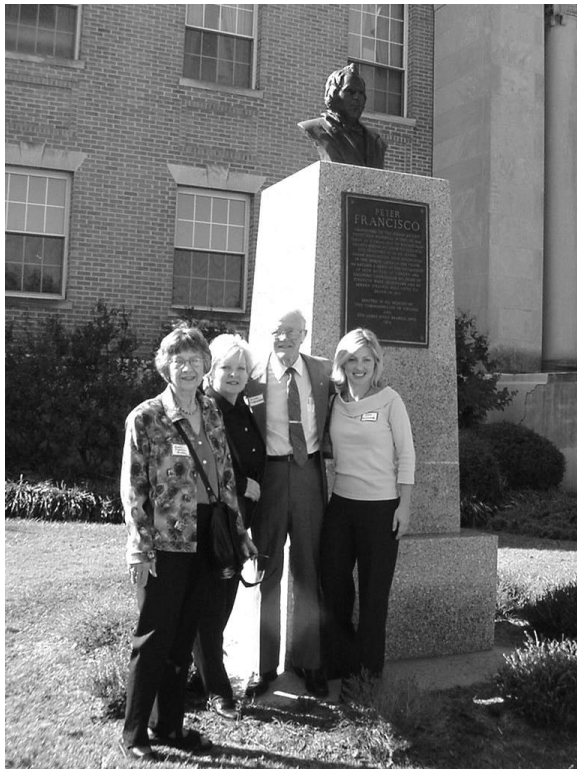
FOLLOWED BY
WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY
SHOCKOE CEMETERY

“Walking in Peter’s Footsteps”

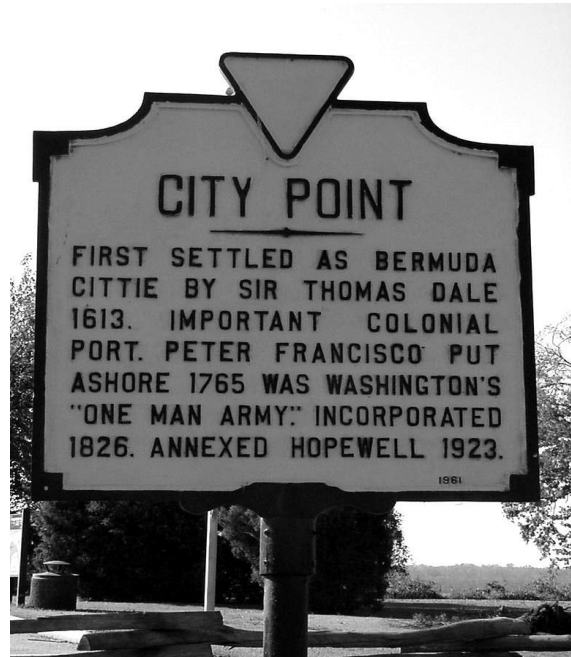
Highlights of Fall Meeting

On June 23, 1765, a young boy was abandoned on a wharf at City Point (now Hopewell, VA). An eyewitness told of a foreign ship sailing up the James River, dropping anchor, and lowering a longboat with two sailors in it. A young boy was lowered into the boat and the boat was rowed to the wharf where the boy was left. The boat returned to the ship and the ship sailed back down the James River. Thus, began Peter Francisco’s life in Virginia.

We, as a Society, met in Hopewell on October 12, 2003, and began “walking in Peter’s footsteps.” After lunch, a slide show of past meetings, and our business meeting, we took a walking tour to the Courthouse and saw the bust and plaque dedicated to Peter (photo below). We then drove to the waterfront park and saw the area where Peter had been placed ashore. The wharf and park area had been damaged by Hurricane Isabel, but we still enjoyed the beautiful scenery. A video tape was made of the area, as well as family histories related by Allan Flannagan and John Stuart Barret. Members then toured Appomattox Manor and its grounds.



Edith Buckley, Anne Wilson, Allan Flannagan and Erin Mwalwanda at the Hopewell monument to Peter Francisco



Barbara, Andrew, Heather and John Duke get ready for “walking in Peter’s footsteps”

DAR TO MARK GRAVESITE

The DAR plans to mark the gravesite of Peter Francisco’s daughter, Susan Brooke Francisco, at Blandford Church, Petersburg, Virginia. The Society will share in the cost of this marking. **Reminder:** Our fall meeting will be held in Petersburg and will include a tour of Blandford Church and grounds.

~Among our Members~

We are saddened by the passing of fellow member and friend of the Society, Esther M. Garrett of Chapmanville, West Virginia.

FUNDRAISER

There are a few **3rd Limited Edition Christmas Ornaments** left. The 2003 ornament is a cannon which represents the barrel of the British cannon that Peter Francisco carried away so that it could not be used against the Colonial soldiers. Each ornament comes in a gift box along with an explanation of its relationship to the life of Peter Francisco.

Order now to complete your own collection or to begin one for a family member or friend. **Cost is \$12.00** (including shipping and handling).

Send your check to: Anne Wilson, Treasurer,
109 Justice Grice, Williamsburg, VA 23185

VIRGINIA LEGENDS WALK OF FAME

It is time, once again, for the Virginia Legends Walk of Fame. We encourage you to take time to nominate Peter Francisco either online at www.va-legends.com or by completing and mailing the form below.

This is a very simple process in which every member can participate to help "give Peter Francisco his rightful place in history." Please do your part.

Deadline for nominations is March 1, 2004.

MEMBERSHIP, DUES and EXPENSES

As of February 2, the Society had 66 "active" members, (those who have paid their dues for the current year 2004). These members represent 43 families; however, about 180 newsletters are mailed out twice a year to 86 families, 36 prospects and 58 "complimentary copy" recipients. Members who fail to pay their dues are still kept on the mailing list for at least 2 years. Since collection of dues is our main source of income, your prompt payment is greatly appreciated. Remember, your dues cover the expense of printing and mailing the newsletters, as well as the costs for postage, stationery, honoraria, prizes, domain name, state registration, etc. The Society's only other means of income is through memorial donations and fundraisers.

Please send in your dues for 2004. Dues for adults (18+) are only \$10.00; for children (under 18) only \$2.00. Enlist other family members – or join for your children and/or grandchildren. Membership in the Society is a great gift!

If you are not sure if you have paid your dues, simply check your address label on this newsletter. The numbers after your name indicate through what year your dues have been paid; the letters indicate whether you are a **Descendant, Associate, Friend or Child**. If there is **"04" or a later year** after your name, your dues have been paid; if not, please mail your dues to: **Anne Wilson, Treasurer SDPF**
109 Justice Grice, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Complete and Mail to: VIRGINIA LEGENDS WALK
484 Viking Drive #151
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
(757) 463-4500

Nominee's name: Peter Francisco

Virginia connection: American Revolutionary War hero; Sgt. at Arms - House of Delegates; landowner and gentleman farmer in Buckingham County, Va.

National/global achievement: statues to his honor in Hopewell, Va and Guilford Courthouse, NC; present at Cornwallis' surrender in Yorktown, Va.; personal friend of General Lafayette

Your Name:

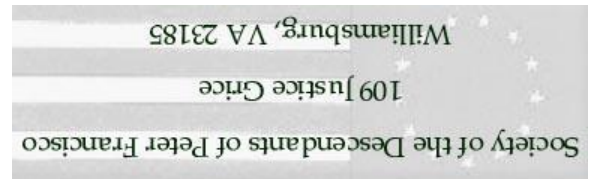
Address:

City:

Zip:

State:

Address Service Requested



SOCIETY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF PETER FRANCISCO

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

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-- open --

**If you have any news for the next issue of “The Virginia Giant,” please send it to
writers/editors: Anne Wilson and/or Erin Mwalwanda**