

# The Virginia Giant

*Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco*

Volume 1

February 2006

Issue 12

## Highlights of Fall Meeting "Walking in Peter's Footsteps ..."

The Society held its fall luncheon on Sunday, October 16, 2005, at Carrot Tree Kitchens in historic Yorktown, VA. The Carrot Tree is housed in the Cole Digges house (circa 1720). (Who knows? Peter may have actually visited in this historic home.) After enjoying a meal of Colonial fare in a private dining room, members crossed the street to the Custom House for a brief introduction by Marion Clayton, Regent, Comte de Grasse Chapter, DAR.

In celebration of "Freedom Weekend," member Stuart Barret presented a program regarding Peter Francisco's participation in the American Revolution and his friendship

with the Marquis de Lafayette. President John Duke gave accounts of Peter's participation in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse and the impact that battle had on the victory at Yorktown. Peter Francisco was also present at Cornwallis' surrender in Yorktown on October 19, 1781.

After the business meeting, members took a tour of the grounds of the Custom House and viewed the brick walkway where the Society had placed two bricks – one honoring Peter Francisco and one in the name of the Society. Members then visited the Nelson House and toured Yorktown.

Our October 2006 meeting will be held in Buckingham Courthouse and will include visitation to Locust Grove, Peter Francisco's historic home.



Carrot Tree Kitchens in the Cole Digges House  
Yorktown, Virginia



Society members on the brick walkway at the Nelson House  
Yorktown, Virginia

## *Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco*

INVITES YOU TO THE 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF

### PETER FRANCISCO DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2006

1:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING (PATRICK HENRY BUILDING)

HOUSE ROOM 1

1111 EAST BROAD STREET

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**FOLLOWED BY  
WREATH LAYING CEREMONY  
SMOKEHOUSE CEMETERY**

**DIRECTIONS: 1465 North** — IN RICHMOND, TAKE EXIT 74C TO BROAD ST WEST; PROCEED THROUGH STOPLIGHT AT 14<sup>TH</sup>. EXECUTIVE OFFICE BLDG WILL BE AHEAD 2 BLOCKS ON THE LEFT BETWEEN GOVERNOR AND 11<sup>TH</sup> STS.  
**1465 South or 1464 East** — IN RICHMOND, TAKE EXIT 75 TO 1464 AND 3<sup>RD</sup> ST EXIT; TAKE 3<sup>RD</sup> EXIT; TURN LEFT ON BROAD. EXECUTIVE OFFICE BLDG WILL BE AHEAD 8 BLOCKS ON THE RIGHT BETWEEN 11<sup>TH</sup> AND GOVERNOR STS.  
**1464 West** — IN RICHMOND, TAKE EXIT 190 (5<sup>TH</sup> EXIT); PROCEED TO BROAD ST; TURN LEFT ON BROAD; EXECUTIVE OFFICE BLDG WILL BE AHEAD 6 BLOCKS ON THE RIGHT BETWEEN 11<sup>TH</sup> AND GOVERNOR STS.

**PARKING:** ON STREET, OR COMMERCIAL LOTS AT 8<sup>TH</sup> AND GRACE STS OR 3<sup>RD</sup> AND MARSHALL.

#### Grupo Amigos da Terceira, Inc. proposes to erect Veterans Monument

Grupo Amigos da Terceira, Inc. has approved the project to erect a Veterans Memorial dedicated to all Portuguese and American Veterans at the Community Center in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The monument will bear the name of Peter Francisco and will include a ceramic portrait of him on the main stone.

*Please read the enclosed letter for more details and to determine if you would like to be a part of making this memorial possible. We ask that you contact Edith Buckley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Society, if you think the Society should pursue assisting with this monument. We will continue to gather more information and keep our membership informed of any progress.*

#### Society Members attend Portuguese Continental Union Meeting

Edith Buckley, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and members, Billy and Stacy Purvis, represented our Society at the Portuguese Continental Union Meeting held in Hudson, Massachusetts, on November 19, 2005.

Edith was one of the featured speakers for the evening and expressed gratitude for the "almost 30 years" of friendship and cooperation between the Portuguese Continental Union and our Society. After presenting a brief history of Peter Francisco and remarks pertaining to the Society's relationship with Mr. Francisco J. Mendonca, she congratulated Mr. Mendonca upon his receipt of the Portuguese Continental Union's "Peter Francisco Award" for 2005.

## ~~Fundraising~~ and Dues

The Society held two successful fundraisers last year. A Silent Auction during our fall meeting added \$37 to our treasury while the sale of our 5<sup>th</sup> Limited Edition Christmas ornaments resulted in a profit of \$209!

Our present balance is \$2,545. Usual ~~expenses~~ ~~costs~~ include printing and mailing of 400 newsletters, state registration, postage, reimbursements, and any donations. ~~However, this year the purchase of a much-needed new computer is necessary to enable us to update our website and maintain Society records more efficiently.~~

As of February 5, the Society had 75 "active" members ~~those~~ (those who have paid their dues for the current year). Collection of dues is our main source of income and your prompt payment is greatly appreciated. *Please do your part by sending in your dues today to help the Society reach that "100 members" mark in 2006 and to enable the Society to purchase the new computer.*

**Dues for adults (18 years and older) are only \$10.00. For children (under 18 years of age) only \$2.00.**

Please enlist other family members or interested friends, or join for your children and/or grandchildren. Membership in the Society makes a great one-of-a-kind gift!

**Please send your dues for 2006 to:**  
Anne Wilson, Treasurer SDPF  
109 Justice Grice  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Name

*Wilson*

Phone

Email

Membership: Descendant Friend

Associate (spouse of *descendant*)

Descendant Child Friend *Child*

## Colonial Williamsburg to publish Peter Francisco article

According to the office of publications for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, an article entitled "The Hercules of the American Revolution - Peter Francisco" has been written by Mr. Ed Crews and will be printed in the Fall 2006 Edition of the history magazine, *Colonial Williamsburg*.

### Among our members ...

For traveling the farthest to our fall ~~meeting~~ ~~year~~ members, Chuck and Helen ~~Goble~~ were presented with a copy of William A. Moon's Peter Francisco, The Portuguese Patriot. The ~~Gobles~~ reside in Melbourne Beach, Florida!

### ~ Welcome to our newest member ~

Camryn Elizabeth ~~Wills~~ Mwalwanda was born December 28, 2005, to proud parents, Christopher and Erin Mwalwanda. Proud grandparents are Bill and Anne Wilson.



Yorktown Victory Monument

Address Service Requested

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## SOCIETY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF PETER FRANCISCO

[www.peterfrancisco.org](http://www.peterfrancisco.org)

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

### President

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### Corresponding Secretary

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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