

The Virginia Giant

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

Volume 2

September 2015

Issue 12

WALKING IN PETER'S FOOTSTEPS...

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of Peter Francisco's arrival in America, Society members and others have participated in a variety of activities by *walking in Peter's footsteps...*

In 1765 Peter, at the age of five, was abducted from Porto Judeu on the Island of Terceira in the Azores and was abandoned on the shores of the James River in City Point (now Hopewell), Virginia. Some of us walked those same streets in Porto Judeu which Peter walked

as a young boy; some will walk the streets in Hopewell where Peter walked as a child, young man and adult. In Richmond, Virginia, some walked the halls of the Capitol Building where Peter served as Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Delegates; still others walked in Shockoe Hill Cemetery, where the "Virginia Giant," "Hercules of the Revolution," "Washington's One-Man Army" was carried to his final resting place.

*Many of us may have "walked in Peter's footsteps,"
but none of us has been able to fill his shoes!*

In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Peter Francisco's arrival in America, the

SOCIETY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF PETER FRANCISCO

cordially requests your presence at its

Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon*

Saturday, October 17, 2015

(Please note the change of day to Saturday)

Gathering begins at 11:45 a.m.

Meeting at 12:00 noon ~ Lunch at 1:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church | 505 Cedar Lane | Hopewell, Virginia | 804.458.8142

Special Activities: Photographs of the trip to the Azores; Portrayal of Peter Francisco by Travis Bowman; Visit to the waterfront where Peter was abandoned and to his bust at the Courthouse

Directions to St. John's Episcopal Church, Hopewell, VA – Take VA 10 East to Hopewell, turn left onto N. Main Street which will turn slightly to the right and become Appomattox Street, turn left onto Cedar Lane, Church is on the right.

***R.S.V.P. Use enclosed form to make reservations and to mail payment for lunch.**

Deadline for reservations is October 9.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

The Society has donated \$234 to the construction of this new museum. Why \$234? It was 234 years ago on October 19, 1781, when British General Charles Cornwallis surrendered in Yorktown. The American Revolutionary War officially ended two years later on September 3, 1783, when the final treaty of peace was signed in Paris, France.

Jane McCroskey and Libby McLeod are holding meetings with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation in hope that an exhibit about Peter Francisco will be included in the new museum.



Stuart McCroskey presents the Society check for "\$234" to Homer Lanier of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation on June 7, 2015

SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED

Winners of our Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarships for 2015 are Lucas R. Beissner and Edward A. Fortunato. Lucas, who graduated from Tabb High School, Yorktown, Virginia, is attending the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and plans to major in Civil Engineering.

Edward, a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology, Alexandria, Virginia, plans to major in neuroscience and minor in music at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Edward is the first descendant of Peter Francisco to receive our scholarship -- he is the 7th great grandson of

Peter and Susannah Francisco. He and his entire family are members of the Society, and his grandfather, Allen B. Childress, Sr., is a former President of the Society.



Lucas Beissner accepts his Scholarship Certificate from Jane McCroskey on June 2, 2015



Edward Fortunato accepts his Scholarship Certificate from his grandfather, Allen B. Childress, Sr., on June 20, 2015

We are grateful for donations to the 2015 Scholarship Fund made by the following: David & Patty Arnold, *In memory of Helen Geddy*; Anne Linares, *In memory of her mother Bess Turner*; Anne Wilson, *In memory of her mother Ida Craig*; William M. Brown, III; Gail Coffman; William M. Corum; Albert Costa; Elizabeth Finley; Mr. & Mrs. Mark Greenough; James C. Massie; Jane McCroskey; Elizabeth McLeod; Richard Spotswood; Sue Terminella; David Vieira; and the Greenbelt Tennis Association.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

Part of our Society's purpose is to have Peter Francisco receive the recognition he so rightly deserves. To help accomplish this, please volunteer to serve with Gail Coffman as she seeks the Congressional Medal of Honor for Peter. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Libby McLeod at Elizabeth.m.mcleod@gmail.com.

"PETER FRANCISCO, THE PORTUGUESE PATRIOT"

Copies of Peter Francisco, The Portuguese Patriot, by William A. Moon, were found in storage and now will be held by Mary Ellen Poindexter of Vinton, Virginia. This book is no longer in print – a limited number will be available for purchase at only \$15 each. *To order, please use the enclosed form.*

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE OF PETER'S PARENTS

Historian Gail Coffman has located the marriage certificate of Peter's parents, Francisco Machado Luiz and Antonia Maria. Copies will be made available to members who attend the Society meeting on Saturday, October 17, in Hopewell, Virginia.

CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF PETER FRANCISCO'S ARRIVAL IN AMERICA

The 250th anniversary of Peter Francisco's arrival in America at City Point (now Hopewell, Virginia) was celebrated in a variety of ways by Society members and others, including our Spring Meeting, a trip to the Azores and our Business Meeting and Luncheon.

Spring Meeting

Celebration of Peter Francisco Day, Sunday, March 15, Capitol Building, Richmond, VA

Highlights of the meeting included attendance of honored guests, Mr. Frederico Nascimento, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Portugal, and his wife; Mr. Dennis Bussey and the James River Hikers; and speaker, Greg Eanes of Crewe, Virginia, author of "Prelude to Yorktown -- Tarleton's Southside Raid and Peter Francisco's Famous Fight." Proclamations/

resolutions from New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, commemorating Peter's arrival in America and recognizing March 15 as Peter Francisco Day, were presented, and Peter's obituary, "Honor to the Dead" – dated Thursday, January 20, 1831, from "The Richmond Enquirer" – was read. Following the meeting, a wreath-laying ceremony was held at Peter's gravesite in Shockoe Hill Cemetery.



Members at the wreath-laying ceremony after the March meeting



Mr. and Mrs. Frederico Nascimento with Dennis Bussey

Business Meeting and Luncheon Saturday, October 17, Hopewell, Virginia

Following the business meeting and lunch, slides from the trip to the Azores will be shown and Travis Bowman will give his portrayal of Peter Francisco. Afterwards, members and guests will "Walk in Peter's Footsteps" to the waterfront where Peter was abandoned, and then gather at the bust of Peter at the courthouse.

***What a wonderful conclusion to the celebration of
the 250th anniversary of Peter's arrival in America!***

Trip to Terceira Island, The Azores – June 20-25 and Dedication of Statue of Peter Francisco

Member Travis Bowman planned and led the “Hercules Tour” of Terceira Island from which Peter Francisco was kidnapped as a young boy in 1765. Travis was joined by his wife Michelle and other members of the Society: Bob Grimes; Libby McLeod; Linda McLeod; Erin Mwalwanda and her 9-year old daughter Camryn; Heather Walls; and Anne Wilson. Others who participated in the trip were John Allen, Leah Hinojosa, Stacey Prosper, and Vital Rosa. The tour began in Ponto Delgado on Sao Miguel Island and included breakfast in the home of sculptor, Rui Goulart. Excursions included visits to the Chá Gorreana tea factory and Furnas hot springs. Cattle, ice cream and beautiful, wild hydrangeas were plentiful! We stayed at the coast in Praia da Victoria on Terceira, and “walked in Peter’s footsteps” in Porto Judeu. In Angra, we viewed the record of Peter’s baptism in the Library & Archives, visited the local museum and church, and attended the St. John’s Festival and the running of the bulls! Other activities included relaxing in pools fed by hot springs, walking through the cavernous chimney of a dormant volcano, and whale-watching.



Angra do Heroísmo on Terceira Island



The tour group overlooking Angra do Heroísmo



Heading out to sea for whale watching



Libby McLeod and Michelle Bonman on Peter Francisco Street



Enjoying the St. John's Festival in Angra



"Tea tasting" at the Chá Gorreana tea factory on Sao Miguel Island



Beautiful beach on Terciera Island



The lake at the bottom of the Algar do Carvão volcano



The church in Porto Judeu where Peter Francisco was baptized



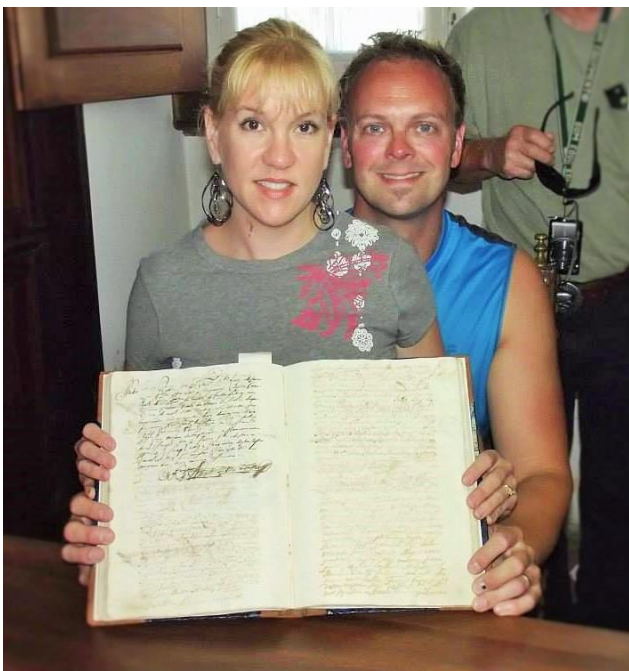
*Descendants in front of the church
in Porto Judeu where Peter Francisco was baptized*



*Three generations of descendants: Camryn Mwalwanda (10th generation),
Erin Mwalwanda (9th) and Anne Wilson (8th) in Porto Judeu*



Overlooking Angra do Heroisma on Terceira Island



Michelle and Travis Bowman hold the original baptismal record of Peter Francisco in the Museum of Angra

Travis and the Society are grateful to all who made donations toward the creation of Peter's statue. Society members who donated are Ed Bowman, Edith Buckley, Gail Coffman, Mary Echols, George Farias, Peter Francisco, Sandra Francisco, Francisco Mendonca, Mary Ellen Poindexter, Gayle Randol, Betty Thomas, Heather Walls, and Bill and Anne Wilson. If your name was omitted, please accept our apologies.

Funds are still needed to complete payment for the statue. Tax deductible donations may be made to:

Peter's Statue Fund
PO Box 1239
Davidson, North Carolina 28036

Many local dignitaries, townspeople, and those who helped erect the statue joined us for the dedication at the Sports Complex which was renamed in Peter's honor. Guest speakers included Mayor João Carlos Tavares; Col Daniel Shoor, USAF Commander at Lajes AFB; Libby McLeod and Travis Bowman. To close the ceremony, Camryn Mwalwanda sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" – whose words about liberty and freedom were equally meaningful to Americans and Portuguese alike. Following the ceremony, the mayor and his wife hosted a luncheon at which members of our group were presented keepsakes of the event – small plaques of the Peter Francisco statue.



Heather Walls, Leab Hinojosa, John Allen, Vital Rosa, Travis Bowman, Michelle Bowman, Bob Grimes, Libby McLeod, Linda McLeod, Erin Mwalwanda, Camryn Mwalwanda and Anne Wilson at the Peter Francisco statue dedication



Mayor and Mrs. João Tavares with Camryn Mwalwanda and Travis Bowman

PETER FRANCISCO AWARD Portuguese Continental Union



The 2015 Peter Francisco Award was presented to Albert Costa, Jr., on Saturday, June 27, at a Gala Dinner held in Providence, Rhode Island, during the annual convention of the Luso-American Life Insurance Society and its fraternal branch, the Portuguese Continental Union. Mr. Costa, a renowned architect who has received many other honors, is also a friend/member of our Society.

Edith F. Buckley, a former recipient of the award, was also on the program; Travis and Michelle Bowman were invited guests for the event.

NSDAR MEETING

Edith F. Buckley and Caroline Corum were guests at the opening night ceremonies of the 124th Continental Congress of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution held on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC.

WEBSITE UPDATES www.peterfrancisco.org

Our website has updates which include our By-laws, Scholarship information, and the genealogies of Peter Francisco and his wives. If you have corrections or additions to the genealogy of Peter and his *first* wife Susannah Anderson, please send them to annecw1@aol.com. The genealogy of Peter and his *second* wife Catherine Brooke recently has been compiled by Sue Terminella and has been added to the site. Please send any corrections or additions to that genealogy to sue.terminella@gmail.com.

PETER FRANCISCO MEMORIAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The second annual Peter Francisco Memorial Tennis Tournament, directed by Terry Henderson and Libby McLeod, was held May 23-25, 2015, at the Greenbelt Tennis Association, in Greenbelt, Maryland. The tournament raised just under \$200 for our scholarship fund.



Division A Singles: Runner-up, Gregory Krauss, with Libby McLeod, and winner Faustino Sanchez (6-4/6-3)



Division B Singles: Terry Henderson, winner Kyle Okonah who defeated runner-up Stan Okumura (6-3/6-1), and Libby McLeod.

MEMORIAL MARKER FOR HENRY LAWRENCE FRANCISCO

Robert "Bob" Grimes of Suffolk, Virginia, has been instrumental in having a memorial marker created for Peter Francisco's grandson, Henry Lawrence Francisco, Co. G, 23rd Virginia Infantry, CSA, who died on March 23, 1862, in the first Battle of Kernstown, Virginia. Henry, whose body was never recovered, was the son of Dr. Benjamin and Mary Lawrence Francisco of Louisa, Virginia. The Board unanimously agreed to have the Society pay for this marker which will be placed at Peter's gravesite in Shockoe Hill Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

~ AMONG OUR MEMBERS ~

Congratulations to Edith Francisco Buckley, founding member of the Society in 1971, and present 2nd Vice President, on celebrating her 90th birthday on April 26!

Welcome, New Members:

Dennis Bussey of Richmond, VA, founder of James River Hikers – Hiking with History; **James C. Massie** of Tallahassee, FL, nephew of founding member, the late J. Quintus Massie; **Noah Ryan**, age 9, of Barnesville, GA, whose father Pat has encouraged his interest in the VA Giant; **Thomas Whanger** of Chapel Hill, NC, husband of Kathleen McCroskey Whanger and father of Barret Whanger, both members of the Society; daughters of members Blair and Rob Wehrmann of Dallas, TX, and their families: **Leslie and Athanosios Agouridis** and their children, **Cole and William**, of Dallas, TX; and **Ashley and Christopher Ewing** and their children, **Preston and Elizabeth**, of Little Rock, AR. Our youngest member is **Maria Francisco**, born October 26, 2014. Her parents, Jon and Carrie Francisco, and her brother Christian are all members of the Society. *Welcome back to* Greg Eanes of Crewe, VA, who has renewed his membership.

~In Memory~

Our condolences are extended to member Ronald E. Bowles, Jr., husband of Elizabeth A. Bowles of Farmville, Virginia, who passed away on June 13, 2015. Liz, fondly called “Susie” by some members of her family, was a descendant of Peter and Susannah and a long-time member of the Society.

TREASURY NOTES & DUES

During this year we have made donations to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and for the statue of Peter Francisco and a memorial marker. We also presented two \$500 scholarships. Most of our funding comes from dues, even though we do have fundraisers, and donations are always welcome!

Annual dues in the Society have not increased since the year 2000 – they are still only \$10 for adults and \$2 for children under 18 years of age. *Dues for 2016 become payable in October 2015.* If you owe dues for past years, you may maintain active status simply by paying dues for 2016; however, your membership record will show a “break” for those years for which dues were not paid. After non-payment of dues for several years, and notification of such from the Treasurer, a member’s name may be removed from our active mailing list and he/she will no longer receive newsletters and other Society information.

If you receive newsletters via email from sdpf2000@aol.com, you will be advised of the year through which your dues have been paid. If you receive newsletters via U.S. Postal Service, refer to the year listed after your name on your mailing label to determine through which year you have paid dues.

It is our sincere hope that all members will maintain active status and encourage other family members and friends to join! Why not give membership in the Society to your children, grandchildren, or your extended family? What a great one-of-a-kind gift!

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

www.peterfrancisco.org | sdpf2000@aol.com

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

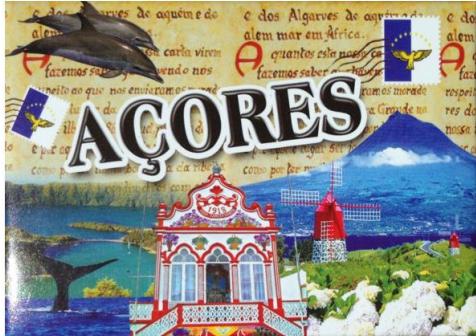
OFFICERS

President ~ Elizabeth M. “Libby” McLeod
1st Vice President ~ Erin E. W. Mwalwanda
2nd Vice President ~ Edith F. Buckley
Recording Secretary ~ Jane B. McCroskey
Corresponding Secretary ~ open
Treasurer ~ Anne C. Wilson
Historical Advisor ~ Gail Coffman

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

**Please complete the form below for Luncheon Reservations,
payment of dues, fundraiser orders, and/or making a donation to the Scholarship Fund for 2016.**

NEW FUNDRAISERS: *Limited Quantities of* "The Portuguese Patriot" Book – only \$15 each;
Azores Magnets – only \$5 each; Christmas Ornaments – only \$12 each



These colorful magnets depict the beautiful landscape and culture of the Azore Islands

Our 15th Limited Edition Christmas ornament is a teapot-shaped tea caddy featuring a large magnolia bloom. Tea played an important role in the life of Peter Francisco – he came from the Azores where tea is a major export and fought in the American Revolutionary War which was begun partially because of tariffs on imported tea. Place your order for this lovely ornament below and enjoy it on your tree this Christmas!



~ Professional Photographs ~

A 10x8 hardback landscape, 58-page photo book of this historical trip to the Azores for only \$95 per book.

To order, contact StaceyLeePhotography@gmail.com

Subject: Peter Francisco Book

Deadline for ordering is November 1 for delivery in time for Christmas. Payment by check or Paypal.

This photograph book will make a wonderful gift and family keepsake!

**Mail this completed form, along with your check made payable to SDPF, to
Anne Wilson, 2613 Moray Lane, Cedar Park, TX 78613-4346**

Names _____

Address _____

Please check your relationship to Peter Francisco: Descendant Associate

Descendant Child & date of birth _____

Friend Friend Child & date of birth _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
LUNCH – Saturday, October 17, 2015 - \$20 (Children 12 & younger \$10)	_____	\$ _____
DUES Paid for (names and years) _____	_____	\$ _____

FUNDRAISERS:

- Book -"Peter Francisco, The Portuguese Patriot"- \$15 each _____ \$ _____

- Magnet of the Azores – \$5 each _____ \$ _____

- Christmas Ornaments – \$12 each _____ \$ _____

- Locust Grove Notecards - Set of 8 cards/envelopes – \$12 _____ \$ _____

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

DONATION TO THE 2016 SCHOLARSHIP FUND _____ \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____