

The Virginia Giant

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

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Issue 18

Walking in Peter's Footsteps...

Peter Francisco Day will again be celebrated in the Old Hall of the House of Delegates at the Capitol Building in Richmond, Virginia. The Society has not met there since 2004, shortly before renovations to the Capitol began. Our celebration will include a short tour of the Capitol, viewing of the Peter Francisco portrait which now hangs outside the office of the Speaker of the House, and a wreath-laying ceremony at Peter's gravesite in Shockoe Cemetery.

Membership and Dues

Currently we have 80 "active" members - those who have paid their dues for 2009. Active membership totaled 127 in 2008 and 116 in 2007. **Please use the enclosed form to forward your dues and to help the Society reach its goal of 130 active members in 2009.**

If you receive your newsletter via e-mail, you may want to print a copy as a reminder to pay your dues and to place any orders for fundraisers.

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

cordially invites you to the

*Celebration of the 36th Anniversary of
Peter Francisco Day*

Sunday, March 15, 2009

Arrival: 12:30 - 12:45 p.m.

Virginia State Capitol - Old Hall of the House of Delegates

~ **Tour of Capitol begins at Old Hall promptly at 1:00 p.m.** ~

Meeting convenes after tour and will be followed by
Wreath-laying Ceremony at Shockoe Cemetery

Directions to Capitol and Parking: Once in Richmond, take 8th Street to Franklin; turn left on Franklin; turn left onto N. 9th Street (toward Broad St.) and go up hill staying in left lane; "gravel parking lot" at General Assembly Building is on the left. If handicapped passengers need to be unloaded in Capitol Square, stay in the right lane and turn right into Capitol Square. *No parking is allowed in Capitol Square.* We have special permission to use the gravel parking lot and to enter the Capitol through the West Entrance; the Old Hall is on the 2nd floor.

Directions from gravel parking lot to Shockoe Cemetery: Turn left onto N. 9th St.; turn left onto W. Broad St.; turn right onto N. 4th St.; proceed to Shockoe Cemetery which is on the left.

**“Dos Héroes Hispanos en la
Revolución Americana:
Hispanic Contributions to the Birth
of the United States”**

Member George Farias, a genealogist from San Antonio, Texas, is very passionate about the history of Hispanics and uses his research to educate others about their contributions. When San Antonio College celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month in September 2008, George was invited to make two presentations: the first about contributions of Hispanics in the American Revolution; the second about showing others the basics of learning about their own family trees.

During his first presentation, George spoke of the contributions to the American Revolution made by Bernardo de Galvez and Peter Francisco. He believes that we would have lost the war had it not been for Galvez, a Louisiana governor, who helped George Washington and the Continental Army get a loan and other vital aid from the Spanish. As for Peter Francisco, George told of his many exploits and referred to him as “Francisco the Incredible” for his strength, adding that Peter fought in the Revolution for five years and was wounded six times. Members Erin Mwalwanda and Anne Wilson had the privilege of attending this presentation.

George is a member of Los Bexarenos Genealogical Society and began research of his own family in 1975, which has helped to make him proud of where he came from and learn more about himself. As George says,

“It touches your heart, touches your emotions and it makes history come alive!”



George Farias with son, Richard, after his presentation for Hispanic Heritage Month

Like Peter Francisco...

**Travis Bowman has several
irons in the fire ...**

Our new Corresponding Secretary, Travis Bowman, has been informed that his historical novel about Peter Francisco, *Hercules of the Revolution*, will be available for “soft release” May 28-30, 2009, at the NYC Book Expo. Travis, who gave his first dramatic interpretation of Peter Francisco at the Society’s Guilford Courthouse meeting in March 2008, has been asked to attend the “advanced copies signing” in full costume. The main release of his book will be held in September in Williamsburg, Virginia, and another book signing will take place in October at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Travis will also present his portrayal in 2009 during the Day of Portugal Celebration in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to be held June 11-13, and at Yorktown Victory Center in Yorktown, Virginia, during the Independence Day Celebration to be held July 4-5.

E-mail Address Request

In an effort to reduce printing/ mailing costs, we are e-mailing "The Virginia Giant" newsletters and other Society information to those members for whom we have valid e-mail addresses.

If you received this newsletter via U.S. mail, yet have an e-mail address at which you would like to receive Society mailings, please send your e-mail address to annecw1@aol.com. We will continue to send hard copies to those members without e-mail and to those who prefer printed copies.

Twenty-one New Members!

Welcome to our following new members for 2008 and 2009: Dr. John F. Armstrong, Jr.; John L. Barret; Clarence and BJ Craig; Mary Echols; Charles, Sharon, Caitlin and Evan Featherston; Allen Flannagan, Jr.; Steve Graves; Elizabeth McLeod; John Mullins; Alla Pruitt; David H. Vieira, Jr.; Trace and Brooke Bechter; Nichole Bolen; Will and Alex Brown; and Paul Mukhavedov.

~ In Memoriam ~

We are saddened by the loss of the following members and our sympathy is extended to their families: John McLeod of Glen Allen, VA; David H. Vieira, Sr. of Jamestown, RI; and Shalmir Glenn Grim of Roanoke, VA.

Shalmir's mother Evelyn Shorter Glenn was a long-time member of the Society until her death in 2000. It was through her encouragement that Shalmir became an active member who also maintained membership for her husband Paul, her children and grandchildren - making four generations of Society members.

~ Memorials ~

Donations have been received in memory of Rosalie Pettus Francisco Barret from her son, Stuart Barret; and in memory of Shalmir Glenn Grim from her cousin Anne Craig Wilson.

Peter Francisco Day Magnets and Locust Grove Notecards

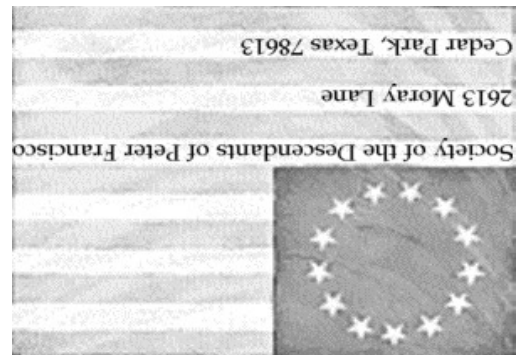
Our 3rd Limited Edition Magnet celebrating Peter Francisco Day is now available. The 2009 magnet is a copy of the 18-cent U. S. postage stamp issued in 1975 and immortalizes one of Peter's miraculous feats of strength. When the Colonial forces had to retreat during the Battle of Camden, Peter noted that the artillery horses attached to a cannon had been killed and the piece would be captured by the British unless rescued immediately. He loosened the 1,100-pound cannon from the gun carriage, shouldered it and carried it to safety!



Add this magnet to your collection for only \$2.50

Notecards featuring *Locust Grove*, Peter Francisco's home in Buckingham, Virginia, are available for \$12. Each set includes eight notecards with envelopes.

Magnets and notecards may be ordered on the enclosed form or purchased at the March 15 meeting.



SOCIETY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF PETER FRANCISCO

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.

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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.