

The Virginia Giant

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

Volume 2

September 2010

Issue 2

In Honor of Peter's 250th Birthday...

Our annual meeting will be held at The Boxley Place Inn, a beautiful bed and breakfast located on a 3-acre estate in Louisa, Virginia, within walking distance of the Louisa Courthouse Square. This historic inn is on the 1860 National Historic Register and is a Virginia Historic Landmark.

Join us in this beautiful Colonial setting, as we continue to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Peter Francisco.

After a time of fellowship, our catered luncheon will be served at 1:00 p.m. in the dining room of the Main House. *Lunch is complimentary for active members.*

Our annual business meeting will convene after lunch. Highlights will include election of officers, reports by officers and committee chairmen, and exciting new business.

If you are interested in staying overnight at the Boxley Place Inn, please contact Innkeeper Suzanne Carlson at 540-967-1447 or 540-406-1755.

You are cordially invited to attend the

Luncheon and Annual Meeting

of the

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

Sunday, October 17, 2010

12:00 noon

The Boxley Place Inn – Historic Bed & Breakfast

103 Ellisville Drive, Louisa, Virginia

R.S.V.P. to SDPF2000@aol.com

or to Anne Wilson at 512.636.8197 or annecw1@aol.com

Directions: www.boxleyplaceinn.com or call Suzanne Carlson at 540.967.1447

Lunch is complimentary for active members

Portuguese Continental Union Presents Peter Francisco Award

Edith Francisco Buckley and the Society were honored as recipients of the XV Peter Francisco award on June 26 at the Annual Convention Gala of the Portuguese Continental Union held in Melville, New York. Edith, who presently serves as 2nd Vice President, is a founding member of the Society and the great, great granddaughter of Peter Francisco. Upon receiving the award, Edith stated, "There are no words to express adequately the significance of this honor for my thirty-nine years of constant effort at establishing Peter Francisco's proper place in our history."

Elizabeth "Libby" McLeod spoke in the name of the Society, praising the warrior spirit of her ancestor who put his own life at risk in defending his adopted homeland. Other members in attendance were Gail Coffman and Travis Bowman, who gave an interpretive performance as Peter Francisco.



Edith Buckley with her award and Libby McLeod with the award for the Society at the PCU Gala

Masonic Honor Bestowed Upon Peter Francisco

On July 10 Memorial Life Membership in Perpetuity was bestowed upon Peter Francisco by the Masonic Lodge of Richmond Randolph Lodge #19 of Richmond, Virginia. John Duke and Elizabeth McLeod took part in the program honoring Peter. In attendance were more than thirty members of the Society, as well as other guests, Masons and dignitaries. The following comments by several attendees best describe the event:

"What a wonderful tribute to Peter Francisco...we were very pleased and moved...Steven (Pruitt) was asked to write an article about the ceremony for the Masons' journal." Don Pruitt

"It was a great honor to be part of the day's events." John Duke

"The ceremony...was wonderful in all respects...There was an excellent turnout of Society members." Allen Childress

"Our children really enjoyed the program. They have become fascinated with hearing more about the war and Peter Francisco. We were so pleased to be able to expose them to an event of this type." Chris and Karen Kardian, parents of Harry, Virginia and Jack Kardian.

After the presentation, guests gathered for a reception provided by Barrye L. Absher, Past District Deputy Grand Master, and were given a tour of the Lodge.

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**This honor was made possible  
by the generous donations of  
members and friends of the Society.**

## Donors for Peter Francisco's Masonic Memorial Life Membership in Perpetuity

### Patriot Level

William M. Brown, III  
Edith Francisco Buckley  
Scott F. Buckley  
Allen B. and Ama Childress  
Gail Coffman  
William M. Corum  
George Farias  
\*Robert H. and Betty Jean Finke  
\*\*Raymond L. & Jonell Kesler  
Portuguese Continental Union  
Donald B. and Alla Pruitt  
Steven G. Pruitt

### Infantry Level

James L. Bechter  
George B. and Helen Geddy  
Sandra Francisco  
Charles P. Francisco, Jr.  
Elizabeth M. McLeod  
Virginia W. McLeod  
John Frederick and Rebecca  
Mildred Mullins  
Christopher E. and Erin E.  
Mwalwanda  
Chad B. Pike  
Michael A. Starkey  
William L. and Anne C. Wilson

### Militia Level

John L. and Toni J. Barret  
John A, III and Barbara Duke  
Elizabeth C. Finley  
Robert F. Grimes, Jr.  
Anne T. Linares  
Arthur Raposo  
Susan C. Steger  
Betty C. Thomas

### Colonial Level

Dorothy L. Copes  
Kenneth B., Jr. and  
Charlene P. Copes  
Nancy S. Faxon  
Allen W. Flannagan, Jr.  
Robert Moniz

\* Past Master, Russell Lodge, Ravena, NY

\*\* Mason, Roanoke, Virginia

### ~In Memoriam ~

We are saddened by the passing of the following members of the Society in 2010:

~ **Robert M. Bartell** of Arlington, Virginia, passed away on February 2. He was an avid writer and penned many poems, including several about Peter Francisco.

~**Ralph E. "Buck" Buckley**, age 95, member of the Society since its beginning in 1971, passed away on July 17. He was a teacher, high school principal and administrator for nearly 40 years in the Northern Virginia area. Buck is survived by his wife of 68 years, Edith, and son Scott. Buck's memorial service on August 10 was solemn and moving...several hundred people were in attendance...former colleagues and students spoke of his great influence in their lives and the love he and Edith had shared with them over the years.

~ **Dr. John F. Armstrong, Jr.** of Falls Church, Virginia, passed away in April. He was a longtime friend of Buck and Edith Buckley and joined the Society in 2009.

### Website Update

The Society's new webmaster, Cynthia Verdow, is an experienced web developer, software engineer and graphic artist. Cynthia is working closely with former webmaster, Erin Mwalwanda, to fill the site with current information and photos, as well as historical data on Peter and the Society itself.

Updates will also include membership information, archived newsletters, a photo gallery, links to other websites and information about Peter, and the genealogy of the descendants of Peter Francisco and his first wife Susannah Anderson, which was compiled by Don and Alla Pruitt.

## Among our Members

~ **Gail Coffman** is finalizing the work on her book, *A Revolutionary Tale of Peter Francisco*, which should be ready for publication soon. This may prove to be one of the best books ever written about Peter Francisco – and possibly the best researched! During her research, Gail has used, and even unearthed, primary source historical documents.

~ **Karen Kardian** recommends reading the Magic Treehouse book, **Revolutionary War on Wednesday**, to inspire your children to learn more about the American Revolution.

~ **Paul Grim** has donated documents and an oil portrait of Peter Francisco which belonged to his late wife Shalmir Glenn Grim to Edith Buckley and the Society.

~ **Don Pruitt and his son Steven** will be inducted into the Sons of the American Revolution on Saturday, September 11.

~ To hear **Travis Bowman's** webcast interview about Peter Francisco, go to [www.history.com](http://www.history.com) and click on *American Hercules* podcast.

~ Mother and daughter **Anne Wilson** and **Erin Mwalwanda** enjoyed a two-week vacation to Peru and Ecuador, including visits to Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley and a five-day cruise of the Galapagos Islands.

~ Congratulations to **Heather Duke** who was inducted into the National Honor Society and to **Andrew Duke** who received 1<sup>st</sup> place in the CISCO networking competition during the 2009-10 school year. Proud parents are John and Barbara Duke of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

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### Locust Grove Notecards Still Available

Are you in need of a unique Christmas gift of distinctive stationery for your own use? We have the solution for you! The Society is offering Locust Grove note cards for purchase. Each card exhibits a beautiful picture of Locust Grove on the front with Society information on the back.

Cost if only \$12.00 for a set of 8 cards and 8 envelopes. Please place your order by using the Membership/Order Form.





## Christmas Ornaments

The Society's 10<sup>th</sup> Limited Edition Christmas ornament is a miniature terra cotta watering can personalized with the letter "F". One can imagine Susannah or Catherine using such a watering can in her garden or to hold a floral bouquet. Watering cans were often imported from England and were widely used during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century in Colonial America.

Cost is only \$12, including shipping and handling. Ornaments will be available for purchase at our annual meeting on October 17, or you may place your order by using the Membership/Order Form.



## Membership and Dues

**Welcome to our new members:** Toni Barret of Madison, VA; Kaitlyn, Tyler and Emily Fohl, children of Douglas and Cynthia Fohl of Virginia Beach, VA; Helen Prescott of Middletown, RI; Steven Pruitt of Alexandria, VA; Michael Starkey of North Pole, AK; Barbara Taggart of Richmond, VA; Joseph Valentine of Martinsville, VA; and Cynthia Verdow of Hyattsville, MD.

The Society now has 145 "active" members (those who have paid their dues for 2010). This is the largest active membership we have had for many years and we look forward to surpassing this number next year! Collection of dues for 2011 will begin in October at our annual meeting or you may use the Membership/Order Form to remit your payment.

~ Dues are still only \$10 for adults and \$2 for children under 18 years of age. ~

## 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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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