

The Virginia Giant

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

Volume 1

September 2009

Issue 19

Walking in Peter's Footsteps

In the spring of 1775, Judge Anthony Winston (owner of Hunting Tower where Peter lived) took young Peter to Richmond, Virginia, for the meeting of the Virginia Convention in St. John's Church. Peter listened to the proceedings through an open window. He was intensely interested in the debate of those present. When Patrick Henry rose to speak, Peter recognized him from his previous visits to Hunting Tower. It was at this time that Patrick Henry delivered his most famous

speech, ending with "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!" Henry's eloquent speech set Peter on fire. Although he was only 14 years of age, Peter wanted to enlist in the army at once; however, Judge Winston felt he was too young, and required him to wait. Peter enlisted in December 1776 at the age of 16.

As members continue to "walk in Peter's footsteps," we will meet at the Patrick Henry Pub in Richmond and then enjoy a tour of St. John's Church.

You are cordially invited to attend the

Luncheon and Annual Meeting

of the

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

Sunday, October 18, 2009

12:00 noon

Patrick Henry Pub

Corner of 23rd and Broad Street – Church Hill Area
Richmond, Virginia

Tour of St. John's Church at 3:30 p.m.

Lunch: Order from menu

*Tour: \$4 – \$6

R.S.V.P. to SDPF2000@aol.com or call John Duke at 757.431.9168

**Active members who have paid their dues for 2010
will receive complimentary admission paid for by the Society.*

~ Christmas Ornaments ~



The Society's 9th Limited Edition Christmas Ornaments will be available at our Annual Meeting. This year's ornaments honor Peter's craftsmanship as a blacksmith – one of the trades he most likely acquired while living at Hunting Tower. These rustic metal-craft ornaments are available in four styles – Christmas tree, star, traditional round, and snowflake.

Cost is only \$12, including shipping and handling. If you cannot attend the annual meeting, you may place your order by using the enclosed form.

E-mail Request

In an effort to deliver our newsletters to you faster and reduce printing/ mailing costs, we will be emailing *The Virginia Giant* to those members for whom we have valid email addresses. If you received this newsletter by mail and you have an email address, please help us in this transition by sending an email to SDPF2000@aol.com.

Happy Birthday to Peter Francisco

Mark your calendars now for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Peter Francisco on July 9, 2010. A committee will be appointed at the October 18 meeting to make plans for a special celebration.

As part of the commemoration, members of all ages are encouraged to submit an original drawing, poem, song or essay about Peter Francisco. Send or email your entries to Erin Mwalwanda.

Prizes will be awarded and the items will be placed on display at the celebration and at the October 2010 Annual Meeting.

Peter Francisco Scholarship

Society member Chad Pike has begun research into establishing a scholarship fund in honor of Peter Francisco. The scholarship will be used to promote the purpose of the Society – “to give Peter his rightful place in history.” Initial ideas include meeting legal and financial requirements, developing criteria for eligibility, making the scholarship available to the general population and not limiting it to a particular college or university.

A Scholarship Committee will be appointed at our October meeting.

Locust Grove on Wikipedia

Steve Pruitt, son of members Don and Alla Pruitt, has written a brief history of Locust Grove for Wikipedia – a free, online encyclopedia. To view the article, visit [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locust_Grove_\(Dillwyn,_Virginia\)](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locust_Grove_(Dillwyn,_Virginia))

Genealogy Update

Don Pruitt has concluded his preparation of the genealogy chart for Peter and Susannah Anderson Francisco's descendants. He expresses his gratitude to all who provided him with information. After the chart is placed on the website, any corrections or additions can be sent to 1st Vice President Erin Mwalwanda.

In Gratitude...

Special thanks are extended to long-time member Anne Linares for her donation in memory of her cousin, Shalmir Grim, and for her continued care and maintenance of Peter Francisco's gravesite in Shockoe Cemetery.

Due\$ are now Due

Please remember to send in your annual dues for 2010. Membership for 2010 begins in October 2009. Your prompt payment is appreciated as your dues help cover the costs for printing newsletters, stationery, postage, state registration, prizes, honoraria, etc.

Dues for Adults (18 and older) are \$10.00; for Children (17 and younger) dues are only \$2.00.

Please use the enclosed form and remit payment to Anne Wilson, Treasurer, or pay at the Annual Meeting.

Election of Officers

Election of officers will be held at our Annual Meeting. If you are interested in serving as an officer or a committee member, please notify John Duke at dukester1@verizon.net.

Among Our Members

Arthur Raposo spent his summer vacation driving *alone* across the country from Middletown, Rhode Island, to enjoy the Wild West! **Erin, Christopher and Camryn Mwalwanda** spent the month of August in Malawi, Africa, where they visited Christopher's father and extended family, went on safari and enjoyed the beautiful scenery and culture. Cousins **Libby McLeod** and **Alexandra Morgan**, and her daughter **Sophia Macchi**, visited Peter Francisco Square in New Bedford, Massachusetts, during their vacation to New England.



Libby McLeod and Sophia Macchi



Christopher, Camryn and Erin Mwalwanda

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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-- 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.

Please send this completed form to
Anne Wilson, Treasurer SDPF
2613 Moray Lane, Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Membership and Dues

Name _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____

Dues \$ _____ for _____

Please check appropriate membership:

___ Descendant ___ Associate ___ Descendant/Child
 ___ Friend ___ Friend/Child

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2009 Christmas Ornament Orders

Please indicate the number of each ornament style
you would like to purchase.

Orders are filled on a first-come/first-filled basis. Cost is \$12 each.

Christmas Tree _____ Star _____
Traditional Round _____ Snowflake _____

Name: _____ Total: \$ _____

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Locust Grove Note Card Orders

Cost is \$12 for a set of 8 note cards and 8 envelopes.

Name: _____ Number of sets _____
Total: \$ _____