

In this issue:

[James Monroe Tech](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Curator's Corner](#)

[What's In Store?](#)

[Elizabeth Monroe Birthday Celebration](#)



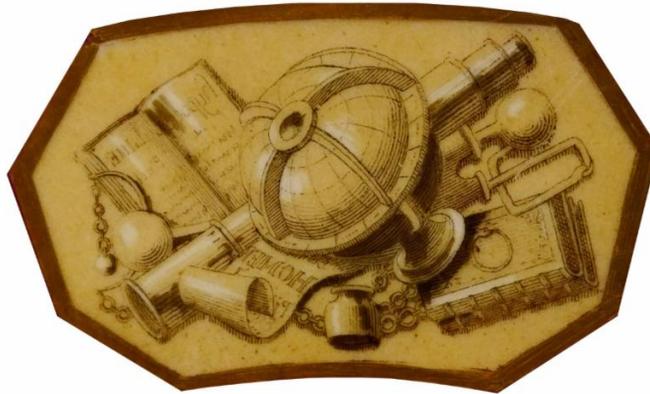
Elizabeth Monroe & Sen. Mark Warner
(Heidi Stello)



History Trivia Night



James Monroe
(Jay Harrison)



James Monroe Tech

[NOTE: This is the first in an occasional series of articles on technological developments in the United States that occurred during the lifetime of James Monroe, primarily during his presidential administration, 1817-1825. The image above is one of the medallions depicted in the Monroe presidential china, representing Science.]



The Hall Breech-Loading Rifle

James Monroe's first public service role was as a soldier in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. As an officer in the 3rd Virginia Infantry Regiment, he fought in a several of the war's early battles, from Harlem Heights to Trenton to Monmouth. While officers traditionally carried small arms such as swords and pistols, it was not uncommon for some of them to utilize long arms (muskets or rifles) in combat. Monroe family tradition holds that during the war the young lieutenant carried the weapon shown in the photo below. It is a French Charleville musket (significantly altered, probably postwar) that fired a .69 caliber round lead ball propelled by black powder. Like almost all standard infantry long arms of the Revolutionary War era, it is a smoothbore, meaning the barrel has no rifling grooves to impart a spin on the projectile as it leaves the barrel. It is also a muzzleloader, by which powder and ball were loaded from the muzzle, or front end of the barrel by means of a ramrod. The flintlock ignition system used flint striking steel to spark powder in a small pan at the breech, or back end of the barrel, which burned through a small hole to ignite the powder charge inside. A well-trained soldier could fire two to three aimed shots a minute with such a weapon, following a drill of nine separate steps each time.



Muzzle-loading smoothbore muskets had been the standard... [Read the whole article.](#)

[Visit the Museum!](#)

Upcoming Events



Friday, August 4, 6:00-8:00 PM, Sketchy History, at JMM*

Join us for The James Monroe Museum's version of Win, Lose or Draw™ on the First Friday of August! Practice your drawing skills and review your history books for an evening of fun team play. Categories used in the game are Historic People, Historic Objects or Documents, Historic Events, and Historic Places. Bring along a team or join one at the event. Free and family-friendly. Snacks provided, cash bar.



Friday, September 1, 6:00-8:00 PM, History Trivia Night, at JMM*

Trivia Night featuring returning Celebrity Quizmaster Sara Bon-Harper, executive director of [James Monroe's Highland](#). Admission, participation, and snacks are free. There will be a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle.

***Admission to the Museum will be free from 5:00-6:00 PM on [First Friday evenings](#) through September 2017. Arrive early and visit the Museum!**

Friday, September 8, 6:00-8:00 PM, Jefferson, Monroe, and Wine, at JMM

Gabriele Rausse, Director of Gardens and Grounds at [Monticello](#), and "Father of Virginia Wine," will discuss the Founding Fathers' love of wine, and



their efforts to cultivate grapes in Virginia. The presentation will be followed by a wine tasting, including wines from the Gabriele Rausse Winery, and Monroe Merlot, created by Wilderness Run Vineyard.

\$25/person, or \$20/person for members of the Friends of The James Monroe Museum. Event is ages 21+ only. Reservations are required. Please contact Lynda Allen at lallen2@umw.edu or 540-654-2111 to register.



Saturday, September 16, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM, 28th Annual Fredericksburg Welsh Festival, at JMM and 900 block of Charles St.

This popular street festival honors the Welsh ancestry of James Monroe (through his mother, Elizabeth Jones). Craft and food vendors; traditional Welsh music; Welsh country dancing, storytelling, and presentations on Welsh culture, language, and

history are all part of this downtown tradition. A new vendor to the festival this year is Fredericksburg's Red Dragon Brewery! The festival is co-sponsored by the Welsh Society of Fredericksburg and the James Monroe Museum. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5/adult or \$1/child.



Saturday, September 16, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, UMW Family Weekend

If you're planning to attend UMW's Family Weekend celebrations on Saturday, September 16,

look for us! JMM will have a pop-up Museum on Ball Circle between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM. We will also be your source for Family Weekend t-shirts!

The schedule of events for Family Weekend is [here](#).

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Curator's Corner

Newly on exhibit in our "**Featured Artifact**" case is a brass whale oil lamp featuring a bulb reservoir or "font" over a cast baluster column. The single wick burner with attached snuff-cap is threaded for easy removal. A simple yet stately piece, this lamp was owned by James Monroe.

Whale oil lamps are distinguished from other lighting devices in several notable ways. They



typically have a metal wick tube which extends into the oil reservoir about an inch or so. This is designed to keep the oil warm, as whale oil tends to be thick and needs a little extra fluidity. The lamps are often double-wicked for greater illumination, and earlier examples do not usually incorporate glass shades.

Whale oil was popular during the early 19th century because of its brightness and unobtrusive scent. It was more expensive than other lighting fuels such as fish oil or tallow, but was plentiful enough to induce an extensive and profitable whaling industry. As a public servant, James Monroe's career intersected with the whaling industry often. In a letter dated August 26, 1820, Monroe's Secretary of State John Quincy Adams wrote to him regarding a newly discovered "island or continent" (possibly referring to the 1820 sighting of Antarctica by three different ship captains) and its significance to the United States, including whaling. Adams wrote:

"More than twenty vessels have been fitted out from New York, and have sailed or are about to sail upon sealing and whaling voyages to this newly discovered island or continent. Byers [likely referring to New York ship owner James Byers] says they will be on the spot before the English..."

James Monroe owned several whale oil lamps. According to family tradition, Monroe used this one in the White House. The date and style of the piece indicate this is a possibility. Monroe tended to be unassuming in his decor, and this demure yet well-made lamp would have suited his tastes.

[Back to the top](#)

What's In Store?

An old favorite with a new twist is now on the shelves at The James Monroe Museum Store. Compasses have long been popular with kids and grown-ups alike. We have several inexpensive options for the family to enjoy.



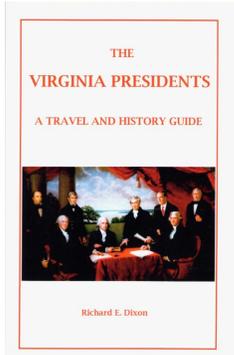
The 2" Brass Compass (\$9.95) is a fully functional 19th century replica. The Revolutionary War Compass (\$11.95) is also a fully functional compass in a brass-hinged wood case with an early American flag embossed in gold. Use either of the compasses while camping, hiking, or just navigating around the neighborhood. In the Revolutionary War, American troops used



compasses to avoid main roads and evade enemies. They allowed them to find their way through unfamiliar territory and remain unseen.



The Keychain Compass (\$4.99) and Necklace Compass (\$4.99) are also fully functional and perfect for little hands. Either of these are less likely to get dropped or broken. Secure the keychain to a button hole or place the necklace around the kids and let them start exploring. Don't forget to teach them (or find out for yourself) how to use their compasses with our free instruction sheet.



For the grown-ups, test your skills at exploring Virginia's presidents with the Museum Store's featured book of the month, *The Virginia Presidents: A Travel and History Guide* (\$18.50). This historical narrative guides the traveler through the lives of the eight men from Virginia who became president of the United States: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson. This is the one book all Virginia tourists and history enthusiasts must have!

Don't forget, we participate in the Blue Star Museums program. If you are active duty, retired, or veteran military personnel, use your military or veteran ID card to get free admission for yourself and your immediate family. That makes getting a souvenir for the kids a bit easier on your wallet!

We hope to see you soon at The James Monroe Museum Store!

Visit our [website](#) to view other items available in our store.

[Back to the top](#)

Elizabeth Monroe Birthday Celebration



On June 24th the Museum celebrated the birthday of Elizabeth Monroe with tea, scones, presentations and special visits! While attendees enjoyed the scones and tea, Heidi Stello, editorial assistant at The Papers of James Monroe, started the afternoon off with a presentation about the life of Elizabeth Monroe. Textile historian Colleen Callahan followed

with "A Revolution in Fashion: Women's Clothing during Elizabeth Monroe's lifetime," a fascinating look at the changing fashions of the time.



One of our special visitors was former director of The James Monroe Museum, John Pearce (pictured left). It was a pleasure to welcome John and his son David back to the museum.

The day came to a close with Senator Mark Warner's first visit to the James Monroe Museum! It was followed by a small reception in the garden for his family, with Fredericksburg Mayor, Mary Katherine Greenlaw stopping by to greet them.

We were thrilled to get to share the life and legacy of both James and Elizabeth Monroe with such a varied audience in one day!



[Back to the top](#)

Senator Mark Warner at
the Monroe Doctrine
desk

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